

Incident
prompt
enquiry
by RFU

Heseltine 'glamour without substance'

Thatcher ready for resolute counter-attack

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND ROSS TIEMAN

DOUGLAS Hurd yesterday intensified his efforts to calm Tory jitters over Europe by urging his colleagues not to frighten themselves with "ogres" as they contemplated moves towards closer EC integration.

His remarks came as Margaret Thatcher consulted party managers about the threat to her position and her government's authority posed by Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation and Michael Heseltine's assault on the "crisis of confidence" in her leadership.

Later, senior cabinet sources emphasised Mrs Thatcher's determination to face down any challenge. They said that Mrs Thatcher was in a resolute, robust and first-mood and had no intention of letting Mr Heseltine succeed her. The prime minister is understood to have told her senior colleagues that she regards Mr Heseltine as "glamour without substance". She also believes that he would pursue an industrial policy more interventionist than that favoured by Tony Benn, the former Labour industry secretary.

Mrs Thatcher was said to be greatly heartened by the strong

support she was receiving from Mr Hurd, the foreign secretary, and John Major, the chancellor, in steering the party through the choppy waters of European policy. The sources promised a combative performance by the prime minister in tomorrow's debate on the Queen's Speech.

Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, would be the main target of her attack as she sought to demonstrate that the real divisions over European policy lie in opposition, not government ranks.

Mr Hurd maintained his delicate balancing act when he addressed the CBI in Glasgow. He assured backbenchers that the government remained determined to fight for British interests and had no intention of accepting the imposition of a single currency and a central European bank.

"There is no dread conspiracy against us," he said. "There is simply an argument, and no reason why we should be scared or defeatist in that argument. We must continue to fight our corner for British interests. But we can do that without frightening ourselves with ogres."

The foreign secretary's comments will be seen in some quarters as an implied criticism of Mrs Thatcher's past warnings about the folly and nightmare of a united states of Europe. However, his carefully-worded text bridged much of the gap between the warring factions in the party.

At the same time, senior ministers continued to rally to the prime minister's side, stepping up their assault on Mr Heseltine's criticisms in a letter to his constituency chairman, John Wakeham, the energy secretary, said that to suggest that men like Mr Hurd and Mr Major were wings not prepared to stand up for themselves was both "insulting and unworthy".

"It is clear from anyone who is actually in contact with the party that the last thing they want is a leadership election. The party is overwhelmingly behind the prime minister and a period of calm and resolu-

tion is required and less of egotistical outbursts."

He was surprised that Michael Heseltine should have written a letter to his constituency chairman in such emotive terms. "It is as far from reality as he is from the action. The cabinet is united on its policy for Europe. We are a part of Europe and we will continue to play a full and vigorous part in its development. That unity comes from full and frank discussions in cabinet and cabinet committees."

Nigel Lawson, the former Chancellor, said on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme that Mr Heseltine's contribution was not a particularly constructive one and he predicted that Mrs Thatcher would lead the party for "some years to come".

In his CBI speech, Mr Hurd said that no one was seriously expecting Britain to submerge its parliament and other institutions into a federal state on the American or German model. However, Britain had sacrificed some of its sovereignty and would sacrifice more, and there was no chance of its pulling out of the EC. There would be no titanic battles over first principles when Britain sat down with its partners in the intergovernmental conferences in Rome next month. Those had been



Mission to Iraq: Carol Cox (left) and Dorothy Goodwin, who are planning to ask President Saddam personally to free their hostage husbands

Confusion over Soviet reforms

FROM MARY DEBEVSKY IN MOSCOW

LESS than three weeks after President Gorbachev persuaded the Soviet parliament to accept his "General Guidelines" for economic reform, the economy is a picture of confusion with the plan under fire from its own authors.

The measures adopted by the Russian Federation, now five days into the implementation of its accelerated "500-day" programme, are also unpromising and a state of additional financial provisions enacted by presidential decree has only added to the confusion and general ill-felling.

Such is the criticism of Mr Gorbachev and the fears for the economy that there are hints that tougher measures may be needed, including control of imports by the army or the KGB.

One of the hardest blows against Mr Gorbachev came at the weekend when *Komsomolskaya Pravda* published an open letter whose signatories included Stanislav Shatalin and Grigori Yavlinski, co-authors of the rapid "500-day" programme, as well as Nikolai Petrakov, an economic on Mr Gorbachev's personal staff.

They complained that the president's "General Guidelines" were nowhere near decisive enough and that the "500-day" programme embarked on by the Russian Federation on November 1, although correct in conception, would fail because it was being implemented late and in

isolation. Although the letter may have been written out of pique that Mr Gorbachev rejected the radical blueprint for reform, the fact that it did not appear earlier suggests an additional purpose: to accuse the public to economic failure and the need for more drastic measures.

Speaking to students last week, Mr Gorbachev said that "still tougher measures" would have to be held in reserve in case the desired economic stabilisation was not achieved. On Sunday, Mr Petrakov - whose closeness to the president was emphasised in a preamble - outlined one option.

He told *Trud* newspaper that the distribution of imported food might have to be entrusted to the police, the army and the KGB to keep them off the black market.

Yesterday, senior officials of the State Bank were called on to explain how the 66 per cent devaluation in the commercial rate of the rouble, due to take have taken effect from November 1, was calculated, and what effect it would have.

Oleg Mozhaikov of the State Bank's foreign exchange department, said that the devaluation was designed to simplify Soviet foreign trade, but the short time between the decision and date of implementation has combined with ponderous banking practices to frustrate all involved.

George Cross for Ulster bomb hero

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE George Cross has been awarded for the first time for 11 years to an army bomb disposal officer who tried to defuse a six-tube mortar device in a van parked near a hospital in Londonderry in October last year.

Warrant Officer (1) Barry Johnson, aged 38, of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, should have used remotely-controlled equipment. He decided, however, that this would have posed too great a risk as one of the mortars could have been launched.

WO1 Johnson, aware of the danger to civilian lives, decided to remove the bombs from their firing tubes and dismantle them by hand. With the help of an assistant, the firing tubes were carefully moved from the back of the vehicle and placed on the ground. As the next stage was extremely hazardous, he sent his assistant back behind cover and continued the dismantling procedure alone.

While dismantling the last bomb, it exploded, causing serious injury to his face and legs. He was blinded by the fragments and thrown across the road by the blast. Although in great pain, he refused to be evacuated until he had briefed his assistant so the operation could be safely completed.

Hostages' wives told not to moan

By RAY CLANCY

THE wives of two British hostages held in Iraq last night renewed their determination to go to Baghdad and free their husbands despite being told by a Conservative MP that they should stop moaning and adopt a stiff upper lip.

Carol Cox and Dorothy Goodwin said they plan to arrive in the Iraqi capital on Friday and have asked for a personal interview with President Saddam, whom they will ask to release the men on humanitarian grounds. They said they had been given personal assurances on safety from the Iraqi ambassador in London and they had no worries about being used for propaganda purposes.

"Our husbands are victims of innocent circumstance. We need to have them home. We want to have them home," said Mrs Cox of Richmond, Surrey, whose husband John is a sales manager for a shipping company in Kuwait. Another eight relatives are also going on the private trip.

"We are not particularly brave, we are not politicians or diplomats. In fact we are

nobodies, just the wives of British hostages who are going to Iraq with dignity and respect," said Mrs Goodwin of Amersham, Buckinghamshire. Her husband, Peter, is being held at a military installation.

Both women dismissed criticism from Sir John Stokes, the MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge, who said yesterday that relatives of the hostages should stop moaning and keep quiet in the interests of the nation.

"I am sick and tired of the mewling and pinking of the relatives of hostages in the Gulf and of some of the hostages themselves," Sir John said. "During the last war we never heard sob's of widows. Cannot these people keep a stiff upper lip and think of the country as a whole instead of their own personal concerns which are perfectly understandable but which should be kept to themselves?"

Hostage bitterness, page 10
Diary, page 14
Options reviewed, page 22

Rebels split Indian party

India was in political chaos last night after the governing Janata Dal split into rival factions, making it certain that Vishwanath Prasad Singh, the prime minister, will be driven from office.

The worsening turmoil will have a disastrous impact across the volatile northern Hindi heartland. Page 12

Caro blame

Sir Anthony Caro, the sculptor, last night blamed the Royal Academy's ill chosen and poorly displayed summer exhibitions for his decision to turn down an invitation to become a Royal Academician. Page 5

Against the head



Jeff Probyn, the English prop, reveals the intricacies of the front row, rugby's world within a world, after the dismissal of Federico Mendez at Twickenham. Page 44

Holiday pledge

The two biggest tour operators have joined the travel industry with promises that they will not raise the price of next year's summer holidays by more than 2 per cent above the level set before the Gulf confrontation. Page 7

Lacy days

Does today's woman want glamorous underwear, smothered in lace? Marks & Spencer, which gambled £21 million on the belief that she does, is watching the new line romp out of its stores. Page 18

Next frontier

Today's *Times* includes a 20-page colour supplement. The next frontier, a comprehensive guide to doing business in Eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union.

INDEX

Arts	19
Business	23-29
Court & social	16
Crosswords	17-22
Design	18
Law Report	34
Leading articles	15
Letters	34-35
Obituaries	16
Sport	35-44
TV & radio	21
Weather	22

Jail task force for under-21s sought

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A TASK force should be created to tackle the scandalous poverty of the regime at Armley jail in Leeds and to see that remand inmates aged under 21 are no longer housed there, the prisons inspectorate recommends today in the most damning report it has produced on a jail.

The inspectorate, which submitted its conclusions on March 23, also accuses the Home Office of sitting on the report. No satisfactory explanation had been given for the delay of more than seven months in its publication, it says.

Describing the Victorian-built jail as grossly overcrowded, the prisons watchdog claims that the department's main concern is to pack as many offenders as possible into the establishment. As a result, the regime is more than usually sparse, providing a ready explanation for the prison's high suicide rate.

The report's outspoken tone and criticism of the delayed publication has embarrassed

Acland fights hunt ban

By JOHN YOUNG

SIR Richard Acland says in a letter to *The Times* today that he may seek legal advice on how to prevent the National Trust from enforcing a ban on deer hunting on land that he gave it 46 years ago.

At the trust's annual general meeting on Saturday, members voted by 68.679 to 63.985 to ban deer hunting with bounds on NT land from August next year. The vote poses a threat to the three West Country packs of stag-

hounds, one of which hunts over the Holnicote estate on Exmoor that Sir Richard gave to the trust in 1944.

Sir Richard, now aged 83, accompanied his gift with a memorandum indicating that he wished deer hunting to continue, and his letter makes it clear that his view remains unaltered.

Trust decision, page 3
Diary, page 14
Letters, page 15



Johnson: thrown across road when bomb exploded

Tongue-tied by America's language police

From CHARLES BRENNER
IN NEW YORK

WHAT is wrong with this sentence? "A burly white man bought some fried chicken and was gyped by a glamorous waitress." By pronouncing these words, you have committed no fewer than four offences of racism and three of sexism, according to the canons of America's new language police.

Most of the words in that sentence have been proscribed in a glossary issued by the journalism school at the University of Missouri. Journalists and writers should avoid them, it said "in order to avoid offending and perpetuating stereotypes." The Missouri glossary has provided an easy target for those who believe that American English is being sapped by a new plague of euphemisms.

For a start, "burly" is "an adjective

too often associated with large black men, implying ignorance," the glossary says. Fried chicken is "a loaded phrase when used carelessly" because it is often used to refer to the cuisine of black people. To "gyp" someone is to insult gypsies, just as to "go Dutch" is to insult citizens of The Netherlands, it says. A novice at the art of detecting sexist thought crime would know that "glamorous waitress" is taboo, but even if you had called your "server" a "dear" person, that would have been out since dear is "a term of endearment objectionable" to some women. The exclamation "Ugh!" is "highly offensive" in any context because it denotes the stereotype of the American Indian.

Among the doctrines of the politically correct now spreading outward from America's academic world, it is

becoming offensive to use the term "white" to refer to the species the police define as caucasians. This mirrors the move away from "black" by people who prefer the expressions "African American". Instead of white, you are now advised to say "non-African-American" or "non-American-Indian". At the worst, "European-American" is acceptable.

Just as the term "white" is held to carry too much resonance of the "racist power structure" that founded and runs the US, so "man" implies sexism. Feminists are reluctant to use the term, preferring "male". Let anyone imagine this usage is restricted to the loonier reaches of academia, the lead editorial in *The New York Times* yesterday referred to the need to train "male adults" as teachers.

Few American journalists now dare

speak or write the word "fat" or "handicapped" for fear of a deluge of complaint from aggrieved lobbies. If any reference is to be made to the "non-slim", words such as "heavy" and "husky" are usually used. A handicapped person is more correctly described as "challenged" or "special". In similar vein, nobody may be described as old: the Missouri professors caution against "senior citizen", itself a euphemism of fairly recent coinage.

Mike Royko, an influential non-young European-American columnist at the *Chicago Tribune* is leading a counter-offensive. "Maybe it's time to wave the white flag," he wrote. "The age of super-sensitivity is crushing me. 'Fried chicken, fried chicken, fried chicken. I said it and I'm glad. Sue me,' he wrote.

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Fair trading office to study merger of Sky and BSB

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Office of Fair Trading is to investigate the controversial merger between Sky Television and British Satellite Broadcasting after calls over the weekend for the deal to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The merger comes under the routine scrutiny of the OFT on the basis that it involves a company (BSB) with assets of over £30 million, an OFT spokesman said. The OFT may recommend a reference to the MMC if it believes that the UK satellite television dominance of the new British Sky Broadcasting could lead to abuse.

Mark Fisher, shadow arts minister, who yesterday attacked BSB for violating the terms of its franchise without prior IBA consultation and deemed the merger "a breach

of the spirit and letter of the broadcasting act", welcomed the OFT enquiry but called for a general MMC investigation into overlapping newspaper and television ownership.

However, David Mellor, the arts minister and responsible for the broadcasting act, said: "They are commercial activities and however much we think we in parliament call the shots, we don't. The market calls the shots."

If British Sky Broadcasting removed itself from the IBA, allocated high-power Marco Polo satellite, "then the question is whether the rules we have set out for the Astra satellite need to be changed", he said. Sky, which broadcasts via the Luxembourg-based Astra satellite, is currently exempted from UK ownership restrictions because it is

classified as non-domestic.

"It is far too early to say if that will be the case, but all the ownership restrictions will be in secondary legislation in order for necessary adjustments to be made," said Mr Mellor, responsible for secondary legislation soon to be introduced on cross-ownership.

Senior IBA officials, who yesterday discussed whether BSB has violated its contract and whether the deal will contravene restrictions in the act on non-EC and cross-media ownership, said that it would take several days to reach a decision. It is to talk with BSB this week.

David Glencross, chief executive of the shadow Independent Television Commission, which is to replace the IBA in January, said that the IBA's consent was needed for any proposed transfer of BSB's direct broadcasting by satellite (DBS) contract or for changes in BSB's ownership.

"It is one thing for the shareholders of BSB to conclude that they can no longer support the losses that are being incurred," Mr Glencross said. "It is quite another for them to imagine they can transfer or share the contract with whoever they choose. The DBS contract is not theirs to dispose of. It is the IBA's decision."

The broadcasting act prevented non-EC control, as well as owners of non-domestic satellite services, such as Sky, from owning more than 20 per cent of domestic satellite services, such as BSB, Mr Glencross said.

Leading article, page 15

Student loan numbers double

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE number of students given loans under the government's scheme has doubled to 30,000 in a fortnight. The total is, however, only a tenth of the number expected by many universities and polytechnics in the first month of term.

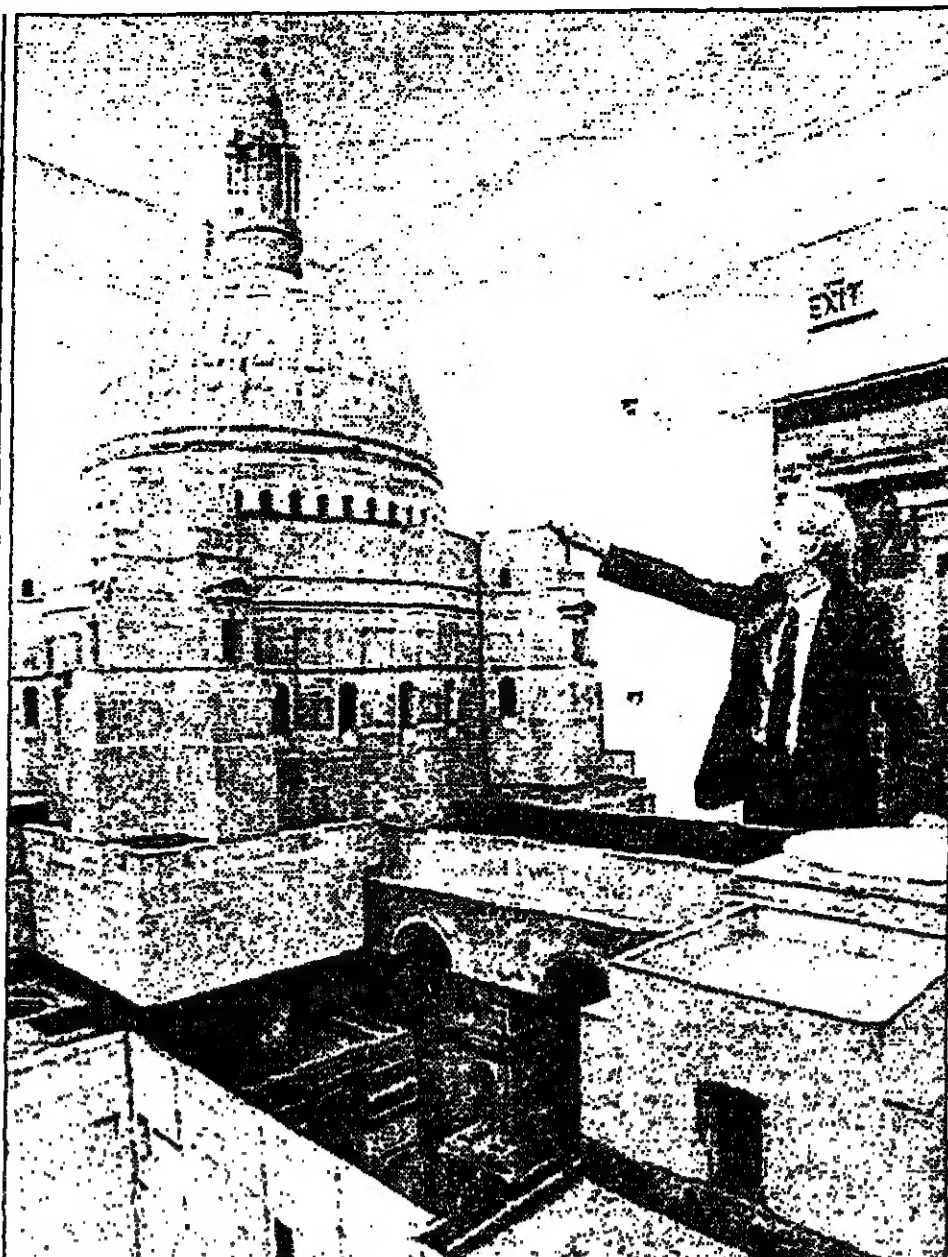
Extra staff taken on by the institutions to process applications have been transferred to other work because the expected rush has failed to materialise. Some administrators blamed the Student Loans Company for unrealistic forecasts but the company denied responsibility.

Ron Harrison, chief executive of the loans company, is standing by his prediction that up to 400,000 students will take out loans by the end of the academic year. He said applications were running at more than 2,000 a day.

The National Union of Students said that the slow start might be a reflection of students' financial position at the start of term rather than an indication that the scheme would collapse.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, had his first public disagreement with all six teacher unions yesterday when he rejected their claims that there were 10,000 vacancies in schools in England and Wales and not the 1,400 claimed by the government.

Mr Clarke said his figure was correct, using the normal government definition of a permanent vacancy as one being unfilled for at least a term. The six unions said that almost half the vacancies were covered by fixed-term appointments and should not be taken into account when considering the number of vacant full-time posts.



Edward Morris, curator of fine art at the Walker Gallery in Liverpool, surveys a model of what could have become the city's third cathedral, joining the Anglican cathedral designed by Giles Gilbert Scott, or the modern Roman Catholic Cathedral designed by Sir Frederick Gibberd. The model was designed by Sir Edward Lutyens and is 11ft high and 17ft long. However, the model is in need of restoration and funds are being sought to raise the £70,000 that will be needed. It is estimated that it will take two skilled staff at the gallery five years to complete the work. The model was

exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1934, but after the war it was considered too expensive to build and only the crypt was built. The model was severely damaged while in store at the new Roman Catholic cathedral in 1974 and was presented to the gallery by the Archdiocese the following year. Mr Morris said: "It is a work of fine art, not a piece of precision engineering. The skills required are those of a sculptor or cabinet maker rather than those of a model maker. Lutyens's cathedral will never be built and no model of this splendour will ever be made again."

Nine miles of slick as oil boat sinks

More than nine miles of the river Cleddau and Haven estuary in west Wales was polluted by oil yesterday when a fuel storage boat sank at its moorings near Pembroke Dock (Nicholas Watt writes).

The Port Field went down as it was tied up in the Gowan boatyard in the estuary. A clean-up operation was launched to stop heavy fuel oil from spreading ashore.

Last night, slicks had appeared up the estuary at Neyland and Lawrenny.

Swiss 'mad cow'

The first known case on the Continent of "mad cow" disease has been found on a Swiss dairy farm. Christoph Riggensbach, deputy director of the Swiss federal office of veterinary affairs, said yesterday: "We are still tracing the origins of the animal, which was six years old but had been on that particular farm for only 12 months. We are certain, however, that it was not imported from Britain."

Player charged

Kerry Dixon, the Chelsea footballer, was charged yesterday with the theft of £16,000. He was charged when he went to Luton police station in Bedfordshire to answer police bail granted after his arrest in a fraud investigation in September. Mr Dixon, aged 28, of Dunstable, was given unconditional bail to appear before the town's magistrates on November 27.

Police chief

Charles Pollard is to be the new chief constable of the Thames Valley. Mr Pollard, aged 45, who is now deputy assistant commissioner in the Metropolitan Police, takes over the country's biggest shire force in January.

Rape hunt clue



Police yesterday issued this artist's impression of a man seen running away from St Helier hospital, Carshalton, Surrey, after a girl aged 14 was raped in a children's ward last month. He is described as white, aged about 25, 5ft 9in tall, with black collar-length hair at the back and a long fringe. He was wearing a black sweatshirt, faded jeans and white trainers.

Reading The Times across the country: Australia \$2.75; Belgium £1.75; Canada \$2.75; Denmark £1.75; France £1.75; Germany £1.75; Greece £1.75; Ireland £1.75; Italy £1.75; Japan £1.75; Korea £1.75; Luxembourg £1.75; Malaysia £1.75; Mexico £1.75; New Zealand £1.75; Norway £1.75; Pakistan £1.75; Portugal £1.75; Spain £1.75; Sweden £1.75; Switzerland £1.75; Taiwan £1.75; Thailand £1.75; Turkey £1.75; USA \$2.50.

Pan Am official 'unaware of alert'

THE Pan Am official responsible for Flight 103 while it was on the ground at Heathrow airport told the Lockerbie enquiry yesterday that he had been unaware of two warnings on the night of the disaster.

Christopher Price, aged 45, an operations and ramp services superintendent, said that he had learnt of the warnings in January 1989 - weeks after the aircraft exploded with the loss of 270 lives. Mr Price, who was duty manager for the US-bound flight from Frankfurt on December 21 1988, said that he did not know at

the time of a warning that a bomb was in a Toshiba radio cassette.

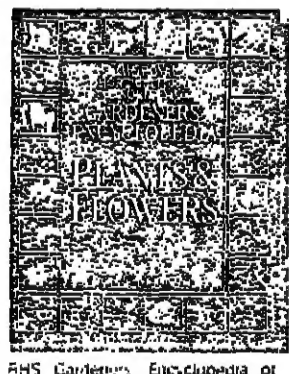
He said that he had also been unaware that, on December 5, a caller to the US embassy in Helsinki had said that a woman would carry a bomb on board a Pan Am flight out of Frankfurt.

The enquiry heard that he had allowed Flight 103 to take off even though it was carrying the luggage of a passenger who had failed to turn up in time, and that he had not informed the aircraft captain of that fact. The enquiry continues

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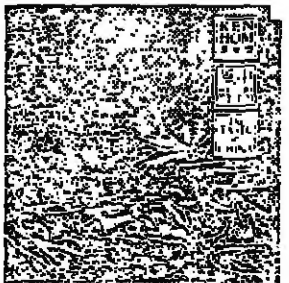
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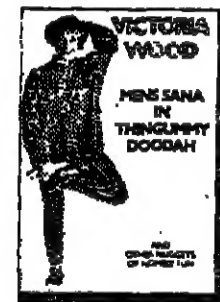
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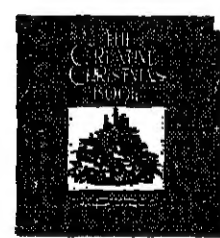
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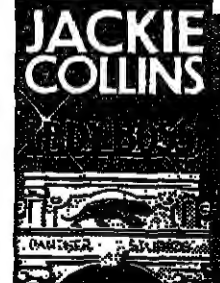
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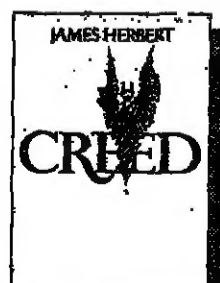
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Funds crackdown 'would stop IRA'

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA's £5 million-a-year terrorist operations could be crippled by a government crackdown on its illegal fundraising activities, a prominent Conservative MP says in a paper published today.

David Davis, MP for Bootle, says in the paper that concerted official action could halve the funds flowing into IRA coffers from a multitude of rackets, ranging from the west Belfast black cabs to cross-border smuggling and tax dodges.

A copy of Mr Davis's proposals to stem the IRA's cash flow has been passed to Peter Brooke, Northern Ireland secretary. Yesterday, Mr Davis said that his proposals followed the grain of government thinking about the IRA. It is thought unlikely, however, that the updated emergency provisions bill, due to be announced by the Northern Ireland Office tomorrow in the Queen's Speech, will contain new measures aimed at tackling racketeering.

Mr Davis, parliamentary private secretary to Francis

Maude, a right-wing junior Treasury minister, likens the IRA to the Mafia in the United States and says that the organisation increasingly resembles a gangster operation rather than a revolutionary one.

The difficulty lies in finding policies that harm the Provisionals without handing them propaganda victories, new recruits and new areas of support, he says.

Mr Davis estimates that the IRA raises £5.3 million a year to support its campaign of violence. Of that, £600,000 comes from drivers of black cabs of west Belfast; £750,000 from stolen or non-invoiced drink sold through some 30 republican drinking clubs in Belfast; £250,000 from gaming machines; £600,000 from pirate videos, smuggling and EC frauds; £500,000 from protection and extortion; £1 million from tax frauds; £200,000 from public collections; £100,000 from Noraid and other overseas fund-raising operations; and £1 million from legitimate business interests.

Hunger striker's case tests extradition link to terror

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Brian Lenihan, the embattled Fianna Fail candidate in tomorrow's Irish presidential election, made his first campaign walkabout in Dublin last week after being dismissed from the cabinet, he was surrounded not by his supporters but by those who regard him and his party as traitors to the ideal of a free and unified Ireland.

Thousands turned out to greet the former deputy prime minister on O'Connell Street, one of Dublin's main thoroughfares, but members of Sinn Féin and the anti-extradition committee ringed him in a tight circle, chanting republican slogans and demanding the release of Dessie Ellis, a republican hunger striker facing extradition to Britain.

That confrontation tactic has been deliberately planned by Ellis's supporters, who are taking maximum political advantage of the coincidence of the hunger strike with the presidential election. Thursday will provide another opportunity for the campaign when Ellis, who by then will be on his thirtieth day without food in Portlaoise top security jail in Co Kildare, will appear at the Supreme Court in Dublin to hear his final appeal against extradition.

Ellis, aged 37, a former television technician from Finglas, in north Dublin, is determined to make that court appearance, whatever the state of his health. So far, according to his supporters, he has lost over two stone in weight. They say, however, as

he is wanted by Scotland Yard on charges alleging he possessed explosives and conspired to cause explosions in Britain between 1981 and 1983, including the explosion at Chelsea Army barracks which killed two people.

The Ellis case has attracted wide interest on both sides of the Irish Sea because it is the first to be dealt with in the republic under the new 1987 Extradition Act, based on the European convention on the suppression of terrorism which makes extradition automatic for most "terrorism" related offences.

It was during Ellis's High Court appeal in July that the essence of the case against him was revealed. A Scotland Yard detective said 13 sets of his fingerprints were believed to have been found on items in an IRA arms cache found at Pangbourne in Berkshire in October 1983. It was that cache which police allege was linked to the bomb attacks in London.

Ellis has claimed that he could not have had anything to do with the bombing campaign because he was in jail either in the United States or the Irish Republic at the time the alleged offences were committed.

The Irish government has made it clear that there will be no attempt to stop Ellis's extradition. At the weekend a government spokesman ruled out an intervention by John Murray, the Attorney General. "There will be no political interference. The case is a matter for the courts."



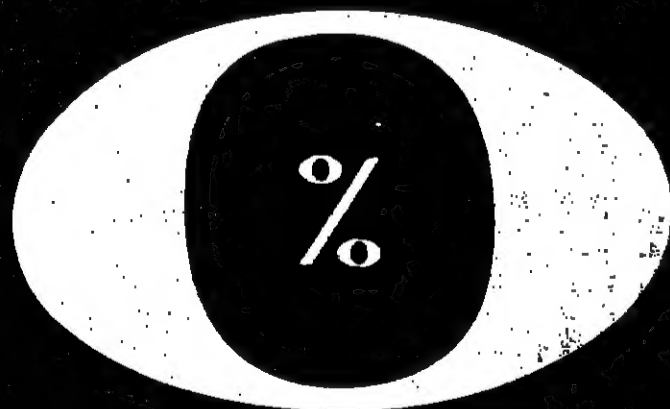
Ellis: his fingerprints on IRA cache, Yard says

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		Max. Repayment Period	24 months	24 months
		Monthly Payment	£102.33	£119.17
		Finance Charges	NIL	NIL
		Total Credit Price	£6140.00	£7150.00
3 Years	6.9% p.a.	Minimum Deposit	£99.00	£1430.00 (20%)
	13.8% APR	Max. Repayment Period	36 months	36 months
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Sculptor blames 'ill-chosen' shows for snub on RA

From Joe Joseph in Tokyo and Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

SIR Anthony Caro, ranked as Britain's greatest living sculptor, last night blamed the Royal Academy's ill-chosen and poorly displayed summer exhibitions for his decision to turn down an invitation to become a Royal Academician.

Speaking in Tokyo, where he is to open four exhibitions of his work, Sir Anthony, aged 66, said: "I do not want to be in the RA. They put on wonderful shows in the winter. But the summer shows are a disgrace."

His remarks will deepen a rift in the London art establishment about the role of the RA and its Summer Show. Last night Roger de Grey, the RA president, disputed Sir Anthony's criticism.

"All of Anthony's distinguished friends are represented in the Summer Exhibition and what he is saying is they are no good, which I am sure he does not mean. I think the Summer Exhibition is getting better and better, and it is completely unrecognisable now."

Controversy over membership of the RA has flared for much of this century. Patrick Heron and Francis Bacon both turned it down. David

Hockney, given his reputation as a scourge of the establishment, accepted. Henry Moore refused over the academy's failure to support Sir Jacob Epstein in 1935 when the British Medical Association defaced his work on its building in the Strand. Sickert resigned from the RA over it, and Moore only let bygones be bygones shortly before his death.

Sir Anthony, a pupil of Moore, was asked to accept election in June and told the RA council that he would decide after he had seen the standard of the exhibition. He asked: "What good would it do to put a piece of work I liked and respected in amongst a lot of pieces I didn't like and didn't respect?"

The problem is that the 80 Royal Academicians have first call on space in the exhibition. They can show six pieces each. Their submissions could be refused by the hanging committee in theory but in practice never are. Non-members can submit only three works. This year 808 non-academicians were shown against 398 RAs and Associate Royal Academicians, a small improvement on the previous year's ratio of 772 to 412.

The sculptor Philip King said: "I tried to persuade him that if he wanted to change the thing he could do it best by joining us, but it didn't wash with him. Maybe he thought it just was not worthwhile. The problem is that an exhibition is only as good as the people you can persuade to exhibit."

Sir Anthony, whose sculptures fetch up to £1.5 million, said: "My friends in the RA tell me 'Why don't you join and help clean up the mess'. But you can't clean up a dirty river by pouring a pail of clean water into it. Henry Moore said that to me, and it is true. He also refused to become a member for the same reason."

"It has always been like that at the RA. I do not have a vendetta against the RA. Not at all. It is nothing like that. Some of my best friends are Royal Academicians."

Bacon, now 81, says he cannot remember if he was ever asked to become an RA but never would any more than he would exhibit in the Summer Exhibition, which he never has. "What is the point? It is a waste of time and the whole thing has been devalued beyond being worth consideration."



Bare back rider: A final check for Lady Godiva before she is re-sited in Coventry city centre today. The two-ton bronze statue has spent the past year being cleaned

Reforms 'may bring delays in child cases'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

GOVERNMENT proposals for allocating children's cases to the right level of court may lead to their being heard by inexperienced judges and cause delays, solicitors said yesterday.

When the Children Act 1989 comes into force, all children's cases will enter the court system at the magistrates' court level and will be referred to a higher court if their complexity justifies it.

However, according to the Law Society, proposed criteria for allocating cases are too loosely worded and could lead to every case being transferred up.

The society said that the criteria, to be applied by justices' clerks, would include a test of exceptional complexity, importance or gravity, and added: "When will a case involving significant harm to a child not be important or grave?" As a result, the criteria would provoke needless litigation about which cases should be sent to which judicial forum, the society said.

That could cause delay, because any challenge to a decision by a justices' clerk would have to be reviewed in the county court. It also meant that to get a case to the High

Court, it would have to go through a two-stage process, passing from the magistrates' court to the county court and then to the High Court.

The society said that it was concerned that the High Court was being reserved for test cases because this would waste the experience that High Court judges had gained in child protection cases.

Instead, most of the difficult cases were likely to be dealt with by circuit judges who had no experience of dealing with such cases, although they were to undergo training.

However, the society says that in principle it endorses the act's creation of a concurrent jurisdiction for all court levels as a step towards a family court.

Solicitors will be under a professional duty to inform clients of their charging rates in writing at the start of any business, under a change to practice rules coming before the Law Society council for approval on Thursday.

The draft rule is being put forward despite mixed reaction within the profession. If adopted, it is expected to reduce complaints to the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau, running at 18,000 a year.



Sir Anthony: "Summer shows are a disgrace"

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Iraqis fail in plea for 'supergun'

An attempt by the Iraqi government to challenge the seizure earlier this year of eight steel tubes allegedly destined to be made into a "supergun" was dismissed in the High Court in London yesterday.

Mr Justice Nolan refused the Iraqi industry ministry leave to apply for a declaration that the seizure of the tubes by customs officers last April at Teesport, Cleveland, was unlawful and for an order for their return. He said that the appropriate way for Iraq to try to have the seizure set aside was to contest proceedings to validate it that Customs and Excise intended to start within a few weeks.

Murder report

A Scotland Yard report on the murder in Kenya of the British tourist Julie Ward incriminates two rangers from the Masai Mara game park, according to a source close to the enquiry. The report, handed yesterday to Matthew Muli, Kenya's attorney-general, by the British High Commission, is said to show that Miss Ward had been at the rangers' compound after going missing in September 1988.

Water bill rise

Water bills are likely to rise by more than 50 per cent above inflation during the next decade to cover the costs of improved quality, the Office of Water Services, the industry watchdog, said in London at the launch of a consultation paper yesterday. Ian Byatt, director-general of the OWS, said water services were becoming more expensive and new ways of paying for them had to be found.

Open delay

Judgment was reserved in the High Court in London yesterday in the test case in which 17 patients given the arthritis drug Open are seeking the right to bring a damages action against the American pharmaceuticals company Eli Lilly.

Pressure on church to publish gay report

By Ruth Gledhill, Religious Affairs Reporter

THE Church of England faces renewed pressure today to publish a widely leaked confidential report on homosexuality. A few days before the first meeting of the newly elected General Synod, homosexuals within the church have published their response to the report and call for each parish and diocese to adopt a "charter of rights" for homosexuals.

The church report, drawn up under the chairmanship of the Rev June Osborne, has been received by the House of Bishops and is being examined by a working party. A spokesman said: "We have no plans to authorise publication."

While most synod members remain officially in ignorance about the contents of the report, all have been sent *Call to Action*, the response of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement. The movement is also planning the official launch date for its response to coincide with the second day of the Synod next week.

Call to Action accuses all churches of "homophobic attitudes and discriminatory practices". It calls for a programme of study and reflection involving lay and ordained homosexuals and demands that the church reviews its pastoral programmes and policies and sets up an international commission on homosexuality under the auspices of the Anglican Consultative Council.

The church said there were no plans to publish the Osborne report, which is not an accepted policy document.

The report, commissioned four years ago, was leaked to a television station earlier this year. The working party was asked to advise the bishops on the issue of homosexual clergy.

Sportsmen 'tricked by timeshare firm'

THE England footballer Glenn Hoddle yesterday described how he was promised a holiday in return for allowing his name to be used in timeshare advertisements. However, the Spanish villas he thought he was publicising did not exist.

Other sports stars, including the England football captain Gary Lineker, the jockey John Francome and the snooker player Willie Thorne, also appeared in advertisements, and the Harrington Grange company amassed more than £120,000 by selling shares to 40 investors, Southwark Crown Court was told. The court was told that the

sportsmen's photographs appeared in a brochure and in newspaper advertisements with pictures claiming to show the 40 villas with a private swimming pool. When the buyers arrived, they found only one shell of breeze blocks in scrubland on a hillside a mile from the sea.

Edward Jowett, aged 42, who joined Harrington Grange in Cambridge as a sales director in 1985, denies fraudulently trading between June 30, 1985, and March 4, 1987. Two other directors have pleaded guilty and will be sentenced at the end of the trial. The case continues today.

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Pressure on holiday firms as big two restrict prices

FROM HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT, IN BUDAPEST

BRITAIN'S two biggest tour operators yesterday sent a shudder through the rest of the travel industry with confident promises that they will not raise the price of next year's summer holidays by more than 2 per cent above the level set before the Gulf confrontation sent fuel costs soaring and threatened to plunge many airlines and tour operators into the red.

Thomson Holidays and International Leisure Group (ILG), which together have 53 per cent of the market, are both strongly placed to weather the economic storm because they were able to buy fuel ahead of the dramatic price increases. Smaller com-

petitors now face having to raise their prices sharply.

Charles Newbold, managing director of Thomson, in Budapest for the Association of British Travel Agents' convention, said that prices in brochures to be issued after Christmas would not rise by more than "1 or 2 per cent".

"The vast majority of other operators will need to increase their prices by between 5 and 10 per cent just to keep pace with the increased costs," he said. "If they don't, they may be tempted to drop any no-surcharge guarantees and claw back the cost at a later date. That would be deceiving the public on a massive scale and would drag the whole industry back into the mire."

Tory MP banned and fined

PATRICK Nicholls, former junior environment minister and campaigner against alcohol misuse, was yesterday banned from driving for a year and fined £250 when he admitted drink driving (Lin Jenkins writes).

Nicholls was stopped as he drove away from Bournemouth after a working dinner at a restaurant during last month's Conservative party conference. He had declined to continue his journey to Portsmouth by taxi after a disagreement with the driver about the fare. Nicholls, aged 41, of Farringdon, Devon, resigned his ministerial job within hours of being charged. Ian Graham, for the prosecution, told Bournemouth magistrates that a breath test showed the MP for Teignbridge had 54mg of alcohol in 100ml of blood. Michael Wilks, for Nicholls, said the punishment in committing the offence while holding a public office was immediate.

Harry Goodman, chairman of ILG, which in the year to October made record profits of £46 million, was equally unsympathetic to less well-placed rivals. "We are certainly not going to increase our prices in order to protect those who were either too stupid or short-sighted enough not to buy their fuel in advance," he said.

Already many smaller companies are seeking ways of abandoning no-surcharge guarantees by using measures, including a flat-rate £7.50 "insurance charge", that would give a guarantee against price increases. However, with the market leaders holding prices steady, there will be extreme pressure on other operators, and fears are growing that some may go to the wall if the financial problems continue for another six months or so.

● Air travellers face increases in fares of up to 8 per cent from mid-December as airlines struggle to cope with increased fuel costs. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced the rise yesterday. It is thought that British airlines flying to Europe will raise prices by 6 per cent. Fares for longer journeys will rise about 8 per cent.

Trust ports face clash over sell-off schemes

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

AMBITIOUS plans to privatise the trust ports, the 100 or so state-owned port facilities that handle more than a third of Britain's imports and exports, will be unveiled in the Queen's Speech tomorrow.

The scheme has been denounced by opponents as the tail-end of the government's privatisation programme, although supporters insist the sell-off promises to become the pathfinder for a new era of local community enterprise.

Many of the trust ports, which include Dover, the Port of London Authority, the Mersey, Hull, Tyne, Milford Haven, Aberdeen and Ipswich, were established by Victorian merchant adventurers to regulate harbour trade. Now they co-exist with the private-sector ports in the British Ports Federation, such as Manchester, Liverpool and Felixstowe, and the municipal ports such as Bristol and Portsmouth.

Unlike the private-sector ports, however, the trust ports are unable to use their asset base to borrow money



A man fishes from a disused dock on the Clyde, which is leading the trust port privatisation initiative

to finance revitalisation schemes, including industrial, leisure and retail developments, because their assets belong to the state.

After the abolition of the National Dock Labour Scheme last year, the trust ports of Clyde and of Tees and Hartlepool put themselves in the vanguard of the privatisation initiative by submitting their own privatisation bills. Both bills are now before the House of Lords and could receive royal assent in the new year.

The new trust ports bill will take the form of enabling legislation, allowing trust ports to take the private route without the need for parliamentary approval for individual privatisations.

The government hopes that the success of the Clyde and the Tees and Hartlepool bills will encourage the other trust ports to follow their example.

The value of all the trust ports has yet to be established. Only 23 had a turnover of more than £1 million last year. However, it has been estimated that the top 20 could be worth up to £500 million. Supporters say

privatisation would enable the trust ports to attract the private capital needed to develop and meet the new trading opportunities presented by the 1990s. Dover, for example, would be able to raise money for new port facilities to fend off any challenge posed by the Channel tunnel. Opponents, however, fear it will present unscrupulous speculators

with the opportunity to engage in predatory asset stripping.

Advocates of the scheme acknowledge that asset stripping is a danger. They insist it has been reduced by the collapse of the property boom in the South-East, and any remaining threat can be minimised by residual government regulatory powers. In addition, privatisation

could take the form of management and employee buy-outs.

In addition to Clyde and Tees and Hartlepool, the Mersey and Port of London trust ports are known to favour the proposal. Trust ports such as Dover and Forth are undecided, while Dundee, Aberdeen, Great Yarmouth, and Peterhead, for example, are opposed to "enforced privatisation".

John Watson, chief executive of the Dundee trust port, welcomes the government's initiative for those ports wishing to go down the privatisation route. But he is opposed to compulsory privatisation, which could arise if only a handful of ports avail themselves of the opportunities presented by the new legislative proposals.

Guinness two will defend themselves

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO of the three defendants in the second Guinness trial will represent themselves when the full hearing begins in the new year, a pre-trial review of the case at Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday.

The former merchant bankers Lord Spens and Roger Seelig say that between them they have already spent £1 million on legal advice and can no longer afford professional representation.

Lord Spens, aged 50, has a Cambridge law degree but Mr

Seelig, a former director of Morgan Grenfell, has no legal experience. The third defendant, David Mayhew, a stockbroker, who was not in court yesterday, is having his costs met by his employer, Cazenove. He was represented yesterday by Alan Rawley, QC.

The three face eight counts arising from the Guinness £2.7 billion takeover of the Distillers drinks group in 1986. The charges allege conspiracy to defraud and false accounting. The trial is due to start on January 14.



This cat was thrown on a bonfire. Someone had to rescue it.

Some people have a strange way of celebrating the 5th of November. They throw fireworks at dogs. They tie bangers to kittens' tails. Last year we nursed this cat back to health after it had deliberately been thrown on a bonfire.

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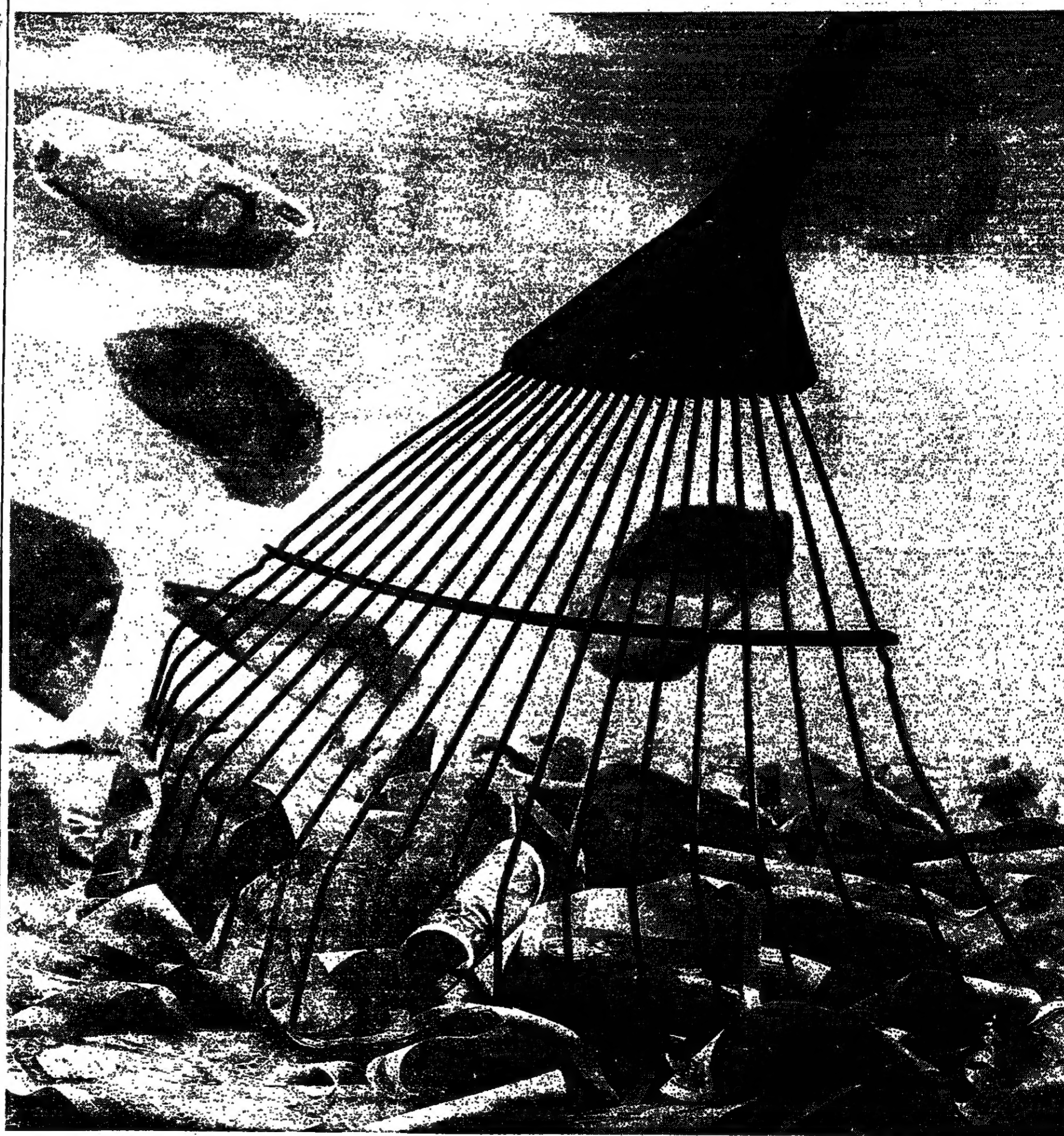
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Heady hopes for radical reformer anticipating his judgment day

ROY Hattersley, a politician for whom self-doubt is as foreign as taciturnity, describes himself as radical by instinct as well as intellectual conviction. Judgment day for the reformer seems to be approaching fast.

If 1991 opens as darkly for the Tories as 1990 is closing, the bookmakers will soon start tipping the writer, socialist ideologue and deputy Labour leader as the next home secretary. For a man who has always rated landing the best suite at the Home Office's headquarters second only to occupying 10 Downing Street, it is a heady prospect.

The shadow home secretary also freely accepts, however, that a Labour election victory would spell an end to the years of talking for himself and his party. The challenge, he says, would be to restore full public confidence in the police and the legal system, and implement legislation that could earn him the reputation of being the most progressive home secretary since Roy Jenkins who, in a two-year burst of reformism in the 1960s, legalised homosexuality between consenting adults and abolished corporal punishment in jails. Mr Hattersley's

Falling confidence in police and the legal system and rising recorded crime and jail riots have the Home Office under fire. Quentin Cowdry interviews Roy Hattersley, shadow home secretary

agenda includes the introduction of a freedom of information bill, establishing parliamentary scrutiny of M15 and M16, the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the creation of a tribunal to investigate suspected miscarriages of justice. Of these measures, the last is expected to meet the most resistance, although Mr Hattersley does not expect Whitehall to exactly glow with anticipation at the prospect of more open government. "I am expecting a few arguments, particularly with the judiciary."

He was deeply shocked by the quashing of the convictions of the Guildford Four and believes that a sweeping change in the way in which the court system deals with alleged miscarriages of jus-



Hattersley: Labour victory would mean end to talking time could be justified on that case alone. Action is also needed, however, because such legal scandals have done more than anything else over the past 20 years to undermine the standing of the police.

Labour would create a tribunal comprising legal and lay experts which would be empowered to review alleged wrongful convictions. If, after an enquiry, it considered that the complaints were well founded, the tribunal could either urge the home secretary to order a retrial or conduct a thorough review itself.

The Appeal Court, which is unlikely to be enamoured with the plan, would be limited to hearing alleged miscarriages of justice relating to matters of law or

procedure. "The problem with the Appeal Court is that it tends to look at former trials in a very blinkered way. Yet, if you look at a whole series of convictions quashed for police impropriety, the problem has always begun with the eruption of a national passion in the wake of some atrocity for the police to make convictions. In a free society you can't prevent that kind of hysteria, but you do need certain protections."

Mr Hattersley, whose political outlook spans Labour's left and right wings, was anxious to point out that radical change was not all he had in mind. Labour would prove that it was the party of law and order by building on the government's attempts to reduce the courts' use of custody and greatly expanding crime prevention.

Schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch and the Safer Cities programme pointed in the right direction but were being undermined by a lack of central funding.

There would also be a substantial, as yet unspecified, increase in police numbers. Mr Hattersley, aged 57, strongly believes in the traditional style of British policing centred on the unarmed

constable patrolling on foot. "I find it difficult to argue with the logic that the thief who goes to your back door hoping it hasn't been locked is less likely to do so if he thinks a policeman may just walk round the corner."

Such support for the police and the traditional model of British policing would not come without a price, though. Labour would make police authorities, who have statutory powers to oversee policing outside London, wholly elected bodies, removing the right of magistrates to occupy one-third of the seats.

They would also be encouraged to set targets for reducing the recorded level of crime in localities, and to adopt new shift patterns designed to maximise the availability of manpower on the streets.

Labour would create a special council to work with the Court of Appeal in helping courts to interpret sentencing guidelines laid down by Parliament.

While Labour supported the broad thrust of the government's new "punishment in the community" strategy, it feared that ministers were placing too much faith in sentencers.



Settling in: Kenneth Clarke smiles for the cameras yesterday while William Waldegrave (above) is more straight-faced as they move into their new ministries. The moves have put them in positions likely to be at the forefront of the next general election campaign. Sir Geoffrey Howe's departure allowed Mrs Thatcher to make changes in two of the

spending, high-profile ministries. William Waldegrave, second son of the 12th Earl, enters the cabinet as health secretary, putting a human face on radical reforms to the sacred cow of the welfare state. His first task will be to soothe the medical profession after the feverish pace of change in the national health service introduced by the departing Kenneth Clarke. Mr Clarke, state-educated son of a Nottinghamshire miner, replaces John MacGregor as education secretary. His role is not to be a calming influence but to face Labour head-on in the battle over education, which is likely to be a key issue in a general election campaign. On Thursday, when the autumn statement on public spending is published, each will claim that he has won extra money from the Treasury. Mr Clarke may



claim credit for both, knowing that he struck an early deal with the Treasury while Mr MacGregor held out long enough for the prime minister to intervene.

Chuffed, chuffed.

Confident campaign start for SNP duo

THE Scottish National party began the joint by-election campaign for the Paisley North and Paisley South parliamentary seats yesterday in a mood of optimism (Kerry Gill writes).

Flanking Alex Salmond, the party's new leader, the candidates sat joking with the press. It was pure coincidence, they said, that each was wearing a Paisley-patterned tie, unfortunately made outside Scotland. Their highest voter reflected a confidence that Labour was on the defensive in both seats, terrified of a repeat of the Govan by-election two years ago when Labour was beaten by a 33 per cent swing to the SNP.

Iain Lawson (Paisley South) and Roger Mullin (Paisley North) are to concentrate on mistakes made by the Labour administration on Renfrew district council, most notably the payment of £1.3 million to a builder who failed to complete work and went bankrupt. Mr Lawson said that with about half the electorate living in public-sector housing, Labour would struggle to explain an extra £5 a week on rent bills.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish secretary, launched the Conservative by-election campaign yesterday saying that the new SNP leader presented a nightmare vision of an isolated, state-controlled Scotland. He said the Tories would fight for the unionist cause with force and passion.

General election, 1987. Paisley North: Adams (Lab), 20,193; Laing (C), 5,791; McCartin (SDP/Alliance), 5,741; Taylor (SNP), 4,696. Lab majority: 14,442. Paisley South: Buchanan (Lab), 21,611; Carruthers (L/Alliance), 5,826; Williamson (C), 5,644; Mitchell (SNP), 5,398. Lab majority: 15,785.

Scottish councils get 10% grant rise

LOCAL authorities in Scotland were given an average 10.6 per cent rise in revenue support grant yesterday (Kerry Gill writes).

Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish secretary, said that the money would enable councils to keep expenditure charge rises down to inflation levels. However, he said that councils which set higher poll tax bills might be capped.

While some councils were pleasantly surprised at the increased grant, local authority leaders said that it was unrealistic of Mr Rifkind not to expect substantial rises, due partly to poor collection rates. They also believe that the government's prediction for inflation is optimistic.

Keith Geddes, leader of Lothian's Labour administration, said his council's 13 per cent rise proved it had been underfunded. "There is still a possibility our increase in poll tax could be as much as £100 a head. One year's good figures do not make up for years of chronic underfunding."

Juan MacFadden, president of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, said Mr Rifkind was awarding more cash to Tory suburbs at the expense of the city. "The Scottish secretary is bleeding Glasgow dry to subsidise handouts to the well-heeled suburbs and country areas."

Glasgow received a rise of just over 9 per cent, and Strathclyde 9 per cent. Mrs MacFadden said that average poll tax bills would rise to over £400 a year unless there was immediate improvement in collection or cuts in services. "Not only is the poll tax a very unpopular and unfair tax, it is also a very unstable and unsatisfactory way of financing local government."

Drive to cut £5bn annual food deficit

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A DRIVE to reduce Britain's £5 billion a year trade deficit in food and drink was launched by the government yesterday, with the announcement of a new system for granting an internationally recognised seal of approval to foods that pass strict quality tests.

John Gummer, agriculture minister, said that Food From Britain, the government-funded promotional body, would be the official quality-testing authority under European Community regulations. "As the scope of the scheme expands, more and more quality British foods with the Food From Britain seal of approval will reach the plates of consumers here and in Europe."

He added: "We consistently import more food and drink than we export. The gap is about £5 billion a year in and year out. I want to see a big reduction in this gap. The

end of 1992 will see the markets of 12 separate member states brought together into one single market with 340 million potential customers."

Opening the annual conference in London of Food From Britain, Mr Gummer said that British producers were well placed in many areas, such as convenience foods, to take advantage of the expanding market opportunities and must not let others steal a march on them.

Food From Britain's quality logo, a red and blue triangle, already appears on a range of products, including lamb, beef, bacon, salmon, eggs and chicken, and will soon be extended to cover pork, hand-made cheeses and free-range chicken and turkey. So far, however, it has not been officially recognised by the British government and in the rest of Europe.

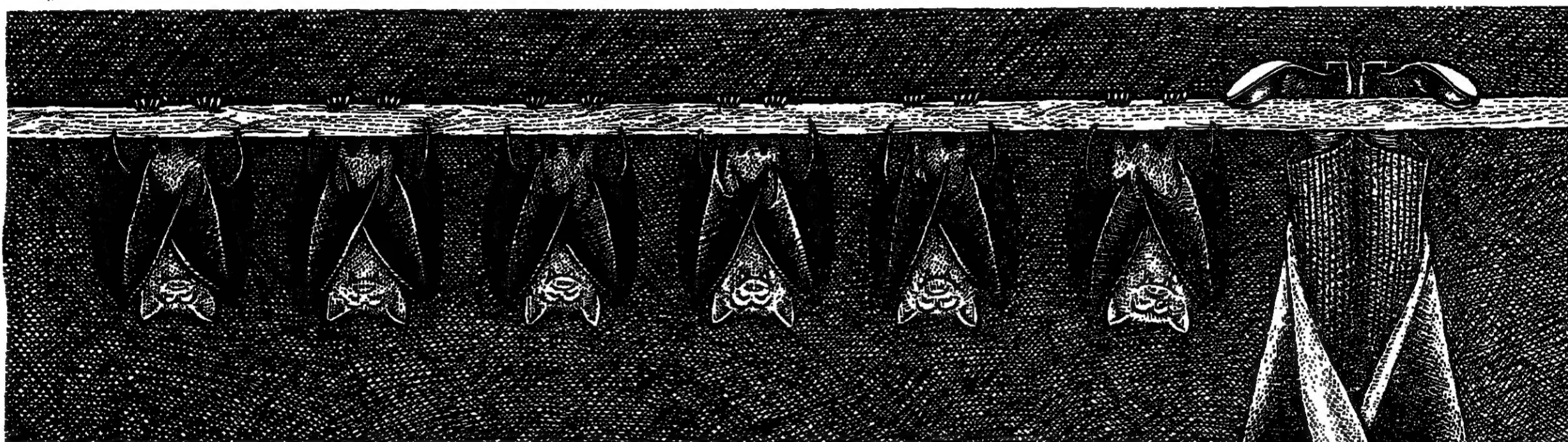
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Hostages direct their bitterness at Whitehall as Iraq refines propaganda tactics

Reunited families call on government for financial help

By RAY CLANCY AND ALICE THOMSON

THREE months after the Iraqis invaded Kuwait many of the freed British hostages and their families are still facing serious financial problems and as Christmas approaches they are asking the government to do more.

Wives are faced with the prospect of explaining to children that father will not be home for Christmas. Some are staying with relatives because they have lost not just their possessions but their homes, while others have sold the family car to make ends meet.

For one man who came home in a blaze of publicity aboard the mercy flight organised by Edward Heath, the former prime minister, who travelled to Baghdad and secured the release of 33 sick and elderly people, the answer is simple. Joseph Wild, who was allowed home because he has a heart condition, said last night the government should pay up and claim the money from Iraq.

"Why should we have to go to the Department of Social Security. We are independent people used to making our own way in life. I don't have any money. I can't pay my telephone bill but I am too proud to beg," said Mr Wild,

of Waterlooville, Hampshire. He lost his flat worth about £50,000 and all his possessions when the Iraqis invaded. "Those who were not there cannot imagine what we suffered. I was grabbed from my bed by a soldier wielding a rifle, had the shirt torn from my back and was dragged away to a camp where I was held prisoner. The Iraqis called us guests but we were locked up."

As a self-employed consultant to the Kuwaiti navy, Mr Wild, aged 61, said he earned a comfortable salary but is now facing a bleak future. "I worked abroad because I didn't want to sponge off the state. Why should I do so now. The government could easily give us all a grant and then claim it back when all this is over."

However French hostages and their families returning home from Iraq are being treated far better than their British counterparts, hostage support groups claimed.

When the National Committee for the Defence of French Hostages asked for financial aid at the beginning of the crisis, the French government immediately accepted responsibility.

Maitre Jacques Miguel, a

lawyer representing families of most of the 280 French hostages released last week said yesterday: "The government has agreed to nine tenths of our requests. In 13 years of handling international legal affairs I have never seen such alacrity."

Families of Frenchmen working for civil works and defence contractors in Iraq receive the salaries of their menfolk during captivity. For smaller French firms a special government solidarity fund was set up. Families were paid £500 a month and tax authorities were told to postpone demands. Telephone hotlines were installed at the foreign ministry and in other government branches such as the education ministry which slotted children into new schools near relatives. Three teenagers, temporarily "orphaned" when both parents were held in Iraq, received £1,000 each for September and October.

All former French hostages will receive compensation for physical and moral injury from a special government aid fund, the National Guarantee for Victims of Terrorism, which was set up after a Syrian bomb injured scores in Paris

in 1986. Paris has ruled that the hostages in Iraq are to be considered "victims of terrorism". M Miguel said "the view of the defence committee and the government is that the taking of these hostages was state terrorism by a terrorist head of state, Saddam Hussein."



John Wild, a former hostage in Iraq, with his wife, Shirley-Anne, at their home in Waterlooville, Hants. He urged the government to give freed Britons a grant

there has been little backlash over their treatment. After accusations of ineptitude after the Lockerbie air crash, the United States State Department has organised a task force to deal with the hostage dilemma. Teams work round the clock ringing relatives with updates.

In Germany there is no organised support system for the families of the 400 hostages held in Iraq and Kuwait. Families are given no financial assistance by the government. Despite one rally two weeks ago in central Bonn, when 200 people complained about the lack of interest,

Britons showing hint of sympathy for their captors

By NICHOLAS BEESTON

THREE British hostages sat on the wall at the entrance to the Novotel hotel in Baghdad looking despondently at their French counterparts, who were being loaded on to buses last week at the start of their journey home.

"We could be going with them if Thatcher had just kept her mouth shut a little more often," said one of the British workers, whose observation was met by nods of agreement from his colleagues.

The outburst is typical of a growing number of the hundreds of Britons trapped in Iraq and Kuwait, who are increasingly directing their anger towards the British government, and signs that the Iraqi regime is exploiting their predicament skilfully.

The attitude has raised concern that a "Stockholm syndrome" could be developing between some of the Western hostages and their Iraqi captors. The mental condition was first discovered in the 1970s when an emotional bond developed between hostages and gunmen during the siege of a bungled bank robbery in the Swedish capital.

Initially the thousands of Westerners held by Iraq were used as a crude human shield to deter American air strikes. President Saddam Hussein's first attempt at manipulating his "special guests" for propaganda purposes ended in failure when he visited a group of British hostages and outraged the world with his clumsy attempt to befriend a young British boy. Now, however, Baghdad has discovered that the hostages' plight can be used effectively, firstly to undermine the Western military alliance through the selective release of some nationals, and secondly as a means of diverting world attention from the invasion of Kuwait.

Dr James Thompson, a senior lecturer in psychology at London University said: "After an extremely clumsy start the Iraqis are beginning to handle the hostage issue very skilfully. The first propaganda stunt backfired terribly, but it seems he (President Saddam) has listened to his advisers and now they have become more sophisticated in using the hostage issue as a smokescreen to divert attention away from the real issue. We now talk about the hostages rather than Kuwait."

The impasse has also enabled Iraq to use the predicament of the 1,300 trapped Britons as an instrument against the government.

Penny Dix, a psychotherapist at the Gulf Support Group, said: "For many people, both hostages and their relatives, there is great anger because they feel they have been forgotten. They have to pin it on someone and usually that is Mrs Thatcher and the government."

"Saddam Hussein is playing on this very well; every few days our hopes are raised that some more hostages might come out. He will play this out as long as he can."

In the latest move, the Iraqi authorities have invited the relatives of hostages to visit them in Iraq at Christmas. It was dismissed as "a cruel and calculating Iraqi ploy" by the Foreign Office and the US State Department, but welcomed by many wives planning to take up the offer.

Of growing concern to the Western consular officials in Baghdad is evidence of the "Stockholm syndrome" taking root among the hostages.

"We see the Stockholm syndrome in people who have lived here for many years," explained one diplomat. "They start saying that the Kuwaitis were greedy, selfish people and that Iraq had some justification when it invaded."

Dr Thompson said that the relationship could form quite naturally under the present conditions. "People who are held hostage can form a bond of affection with their captors, particularly if the captors are not holding guns to their heads and the conditions of their confinement are good. It is human nature to be friendly with a human being next to you, even if he is your captor."

The condition has been diagnosed by Dr Bertel Berg, a Swedish hostage in Baghdad, who has developed a programme for his fellow captives to help fight the boredom and despair of three months' confinement.

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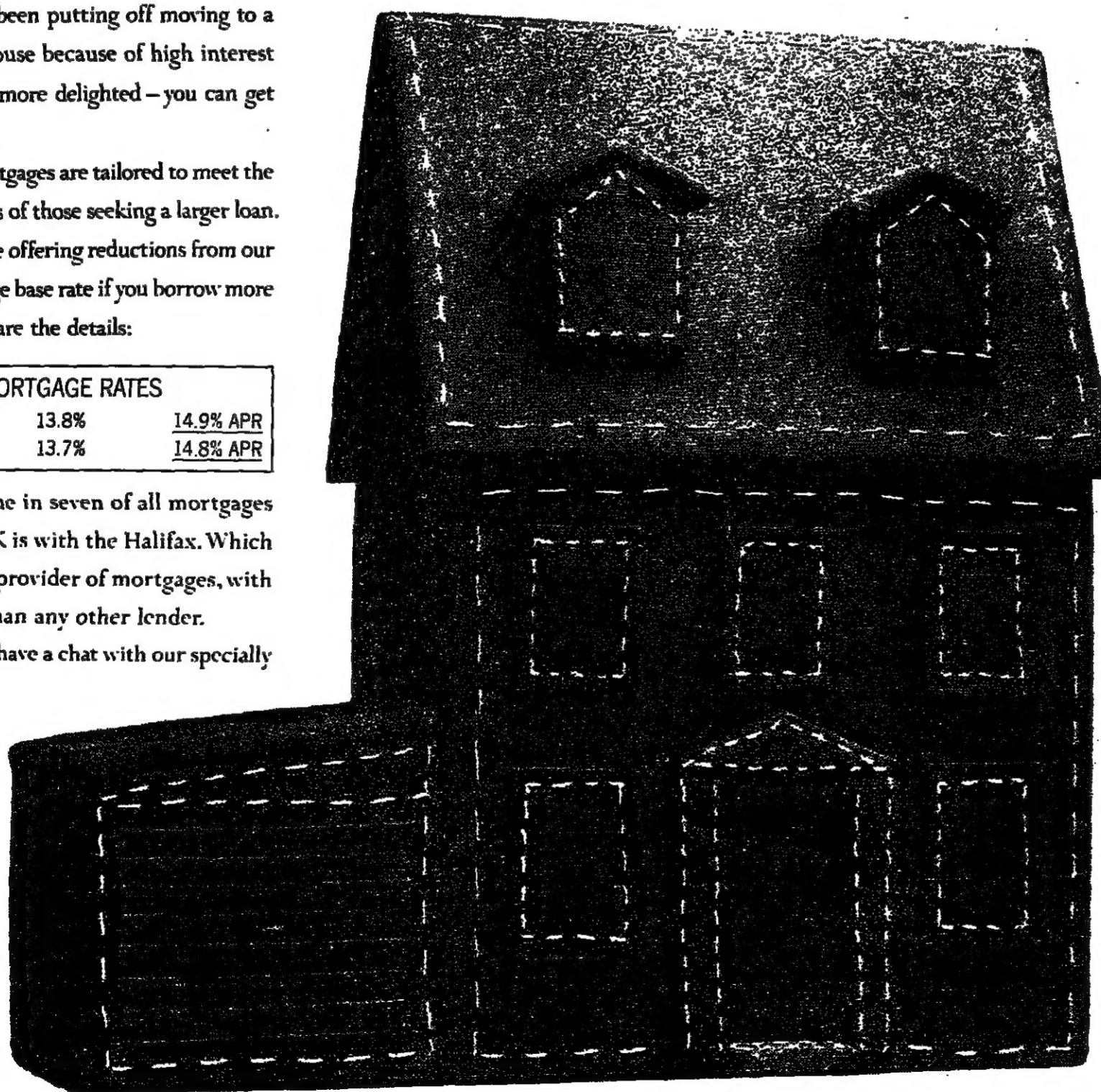
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Call-up for US weekend warriors

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon is to call up for Gulf duty thousands of "weekend warriors" from military reserve combat units. The move was seen as a signal to Baghdad that Washington's resolve is as strong as ever and came as the exiled Emir of Kuwait said yesterday that he would prefer his country to be "liberated today rather than tomorrow" and would not mind if a rescue from Iraqi occupation took place without the backing of the United Nations.

The reserve troops are expected to leave in coming weeks among a deployment of up to 100,000 further troops announced earlier. Two-thirds of the 330,000 troops in Operation Desert Shield are American.

The Emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, yesterday urged James Baker, the US Secretary of State, to free Kuwait swiftly after Baghdad vowed it would never withdraw its troops "even if we have to fight a dangerous war". The two men met in the Saudi Arabian mountain resort of Taif, where the Emir has been in exile since Iraq invaded its neighbour three months ago. Mr Baker, who is in the Middle East and Europe



Sheikh Jaber: urged Baker to act swiftly

for a week to confer with regional leaders about the Gulf conflict, was due later to meet King Fahd of Saudi Arabia before travelling to Egypt, Turkey, Britain, France and the Soviet Union. He was expected to ask the king to consider possible military options if economic sanctions approved by the UN Security Council fail to drive out the Iraqis.

His trip follows fiery anti-Iraq rhetoric last week from the Bush administration, including one of the president's speeches likening President Saddam Hussein to Hitler.

Beirut designers don their battle dress

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN BEIRUT

SHRAPNEL, twisted metal and stinking smell of nearby garbage piles and sewage pipes. Their spartan limousines were parked near craters in the hotel driveway.

The haute couture outfits of the models and the audience stood in sharp contrast with the camouflage combat fatigues of soldiers, who looked from adjacent buildings.

Beirut's upper class and Gulf tourists fleeing their less permissive states had considered the St George an oasis in pre-war Lebanon. Its picturesque seafaring bar was a hangout for journalists, diplomats and politicians.

A journalist, Insan Hijazi, aged 60, remembered it as "the place in Lebanon to see and be seen". But the civil war erupted in 1975 and the last time Mr Hijazi saw the hotel was a year later when he reported on dead Christian militiamen littering the lobby after an armed attack.

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Bonn urges EC to temper anti-Iraq line to avert war

From Ian Murray in Bonn

GERMANY is pressing the European Community to take a markedly less hard line than the United States against Iraq in the interests of finding a peaceful solution and the release of all the hostages.

This was clear yesterday from the way Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, rang his Italian opposite number, Gianni de Michelis, to ask for an immediate special meeting of EC ministers to discuss the Gulf crisis.

The Dutch had already asked for the special session to find out why the German government, in apparent defiance of a statement agreed by the Rome EC summit a week before, had given its blessing to a private visit to Baghdad by Willy Brandt.

Herr Genscher made no direct reference to the former West German chancellor's trip in his talk with the Italian minister, who is currently president of the EC's council of ministers. By his intervention, however, Herr Genscher sought to turn criticism of Germany into a way of making the Community discuss ways of achieving peace and the freedom of all hostages.

The foreign minister had in an earlier radio interview, rejected any criticism of Herr Brandt's visit. He wished the former chancellor every success, saying he had no need for special permission from the UN to go and that it was important to sound out all possibilities for helping peace and the hostages. The government, he insisted would leave no stone unturned in its efforts to win the freedom of

all those detained, whatever their nationality.

Herr Brandt, who has done his best to prevent the German government taking any credit for his initiative, told a television interviewer on Sunday evening that he was hopeful of winning the release of so many hostages that he might have to send for a second aircraft to pick them all up.

He was given a hero's send-off when he left Frankfurt during the afternoon on board a Lufthansa Airbus. Relatives and friends of some of the 366 German hostages in Iraq chanted "Thanks Willy" and "Good luck, Willy" as he boarded the aircraft. One of the women, Hildegarde Taranowski, gave him a bunch of green-stemmed, red and white flowers. These were the Iraqi national colours, she said, and she wanted the bunch, complete with a letter she had included, delivered to President Saddam.

Other members of the German contact group, formed by supporters of the hostages, thanked Herr Brandt for what he was doing. "We don't understand why the government has not done more to free our citizens," said Patricia Hundersdorf. Several of the women said they were able to keep in daily telephone contact with their husbands. Calls were uninterrupted if they did not last longer than five minutes and if they avoided using politically sensitive words like "hostage" or "Genscher".

Herr Brandt's special aircraft stopped for an hour-long

customs check in Vienna on the way to Baghdad. This was in keeping with UN Security Council regulations which require an inspection by a third country of any cargo being sent to Iraq to ensure it is not in breach of embargo regulations. The aircraft was carrying medical supplies and children's food which had been requested by the German embassy in Baghdad.

As 14 Germans and a Belgian fired by Iraq arrived in Germany yesterday a captive technician expressed concern for other foreigners held as part of Baghdad's "human shield", and said he had been told of Herr Brandt's visit (Reuters reports). The 15 men who arrived at Frankfurt airport work for a Cologne-based construction company.

A Stuttgart policeman meanwhile received a telephone call from his technician son who is being held in Iraq. The hostage said food was becoming scarce but most hostages were doing well. But he added: "That is not true for those held in the camps, according to what we hear."

Leading article, page 15



Strength to strength: a captive giant panda at Fuzhou zoo in Peking shows off its weightlifting prowess. China has told the World Wide Fund for Nature that it will implement a long-awaited programme to save the species from extinction

Peking takes first step in saving pandas

From Michael McCarthy in Geneva

CHINA is to implement its long-awaited management plan to save the giant panda from extinction, Song Jian, the Chinese state councillor responsible for the environment, told the World Wide Fund for Nature yesterday.

The plan, drawn up with WWF advice, has been stalled since the killings in Tiananmen Square in June 1989, and in July this year Prince Philip, the fund's international president, said: "The chances of the panda surviving at the present rate of progress are not good."

Yesterday Mr Song, who is in Geneva for today's ministerial session of the World Climate Conference, visited WWF headquarters at nearby Gland and told Charles de Haes, the fund's director-general, and Chris Elliott, its China programme co-ordinator, that Peking had decided in principle to implement the plan, which involves extensive conservation and management measures in the bamboo forests that are home to the remaining animals. There are an estimated 1,000 giant pandas left, principally in Sichuan, but also in the provinces of Gansu and Shaanxi.

A decision on what level of

funding to give the plan, whose full cost over the next five years is now estimated at £30 million, would be taken by next March, he said, in time for China's next five-year economic programme.

Mr Elliott said last night: "This is very good news for the panda, coming after all the delays of the past year. It is a major step on the road to saving the animal, although we shall be even more encouraged when the financial decision is taken."

The funding discussion will take place between the state council and the Chinese ministry of forestry, under whose aegis the plan was drawn up. It includes new reserves, increased patrolling of existing reserves, and "bamboo corridors" between isolated clumps of forest.

Mr Elliott said: "Mr Song is the most important politician in China to oversee the environment and we are heartened by his evident commitment to saving the panda. He is fully informed about the plan and feels it is a national priority."

The fund would probably be contributing a "six-figure sum" towards the cost of the full programme, Mr Elliott said.

Heseltine gets red carpet treatment

Jerusalem — Michael Heseltine was given red carpet treatment on his visit to Israel yesterday, possibly because assessments by Mossad, Israel's intelligence service, have secretly concluded that he is indeed a potential British prime minister (Richard Owen writes).

Mr Heseltine yesterday made the rounds of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv as if the only thing on his mind was the future of the Middle East. Was his now-famous letter urging the Conservative Party to take account of its "myriad opinions and prejudices" on the issue of Europe a direct challenge to Mrs Thatcher? "No, no, no," he said.

But the programme laid on for him would certainly have done Mrs Thatcher herself proud. He was received by anyone who is anyone in Israel, from the prime minister and the president down.

Arafat warning

Tunis — Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman, has told the group's leaders and officials that Iraq would aim its first missile at Israel and fight with chemical and biological weapons if war broke out in the Gulf, says the Tunisian newspaper *al-Sabah*. Mr Arafat, who is closely allied to President Saddam Hussein, saw the Iraqi leader in Baghdad last week.

Husain visit

Paris — The impact of the Gulf confrontation on Jordan has brought King Husain to the Elysee Palace for his second meeting with President Mitterrand in two months. Although the visit follows his talks with Iraq's foreign minister last weekend, there is no indication that a new Jordanian peace initiative is being prepared and French officials were not expecting much beyond a formal communiqué.

Carrier arrives

Bahrain — The American aircraft carrier, Midway, cruised into the Gulf with its escort ships yesterday. A US naval spokesman here said the Midway would be able to "more fully exercise" its operating capability in the strategic waterway. Sending the Midway into the Gulf puts targets in Iraq and Iraqi-occupied Kuwait within range of the carrier's 75 warplanes without refuelling. (Reuters)

Cost of invasion

Tunis — Palestinians and the PLO have suffered more than \$4 billion (£2 billion) damage since the invasion of Kuwait, says Yasser Arafat, the organisation's chairman. Most of this represents money in frozen accounts in Kuwait belonging to Palestinian workers and companies there. Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states have halted their \$40 million a month support for the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Sharon speeds housing plan

From Richard Owen in Jerusalem

ARIEL Sharon, Israel's controversial housing minister and former general, was accused yesterday of over-reaching himself by "cutting through red tape" holding up an emergency plan for the building of thousands of new homes for Soviet Jewish immigrants.

Officials said 75,000 Soviet Jews were expected to arrive in Israel this month and next month, bringing the total number of arrivals for 1990 to 200,000. One million Soviet Jews are expected to come by the end of 1992.

On Sunday the Israeli cabinet approved a plan under which Mr Sharon, noted for his right-wing views, would be able to award government building contracts without offering them for open tender. The new regulation does not refer specifically to housing for Soviet Jews, talking only of "special cases". But the move is assumed to be intended to help solve the problems posed by the housing shortage and the huge numbers of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

Mr Sharon has vowed to build new homes in east Jerusalem, thus raising tensions with the United States, which regards east Jerusalem as "occupied territory".

Four government ministers yesterday said the Sharon plan for offering contracts without open competition was clearly subject to abuse and possible corruption. Arye Dori, the interior minister, said the plan would cause delays rather than cut through red tape because building contractors who felt they had been cheated or bypassed would appeal to the supreme court.

Mr Sharon, however, said Israel had "a tremendous mission." He added: "We have an urgent need for apartments. We have land, but we have a shortage of builders and contractors."

Officials said the army was preparing to turn over two military bases in southern Israel for use by Soviet immigrants. Yitzhak Peretz, the immigration minister, said Soviet Jews were still leaving the Soviet Union in large numbers.



Sharon: cut red tape to force through contracts



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Embattled Republicans seek to limit election damage

ENOUGH mud has been slung to refill the Channel tunnel. The annual budget of a small Third World nation has been spent on negative advertising. After months of campaigning, Americans, or at least the third who can still be bothered to vote, will today elect governors for 36 of the 50 states, a new House of Representatives and a third of the Senate. Their choices will affect the country's political direction for a decade or more.

The elections are more than a referendum on the performance of a troubled Republican White House, though the results will be seen as such. At stake is whether the Republicans can lay the foundations for regaining the Senate they last controlled in 1986 and breaking a 35-year Democratic stranglehold on the House of Representatives; or — much more likely — whether the Democrats can continue to build their congressional strength to the point where a Republican president can no longer be confident of having his veto sustained.

Deprived of the anti-tax, anti-communist warcry which carried them through the 1980s, the Republicans enter the elections with the economy deteriorating, polls registering a national pessimism not seen since the dying days of the Carter administration, and ranks deeply divided after last month's tax-and-budget melodrama. Mr Bush's ratings have fallen more steeply than those of any president since Gerald Ford pardoned Richard Nixon after Watergate. In the summer the

As American voters go to the polls today, Martin Fletcher assesses the prospects in elections that will affect the nation's political direction for a decade or more

Republicans had high hopes of making significant advances, but the talk now is of damage limitation, with experts predicting the possible loss of a dozen House seats, a couple of senators and up to half a dozen governorships.

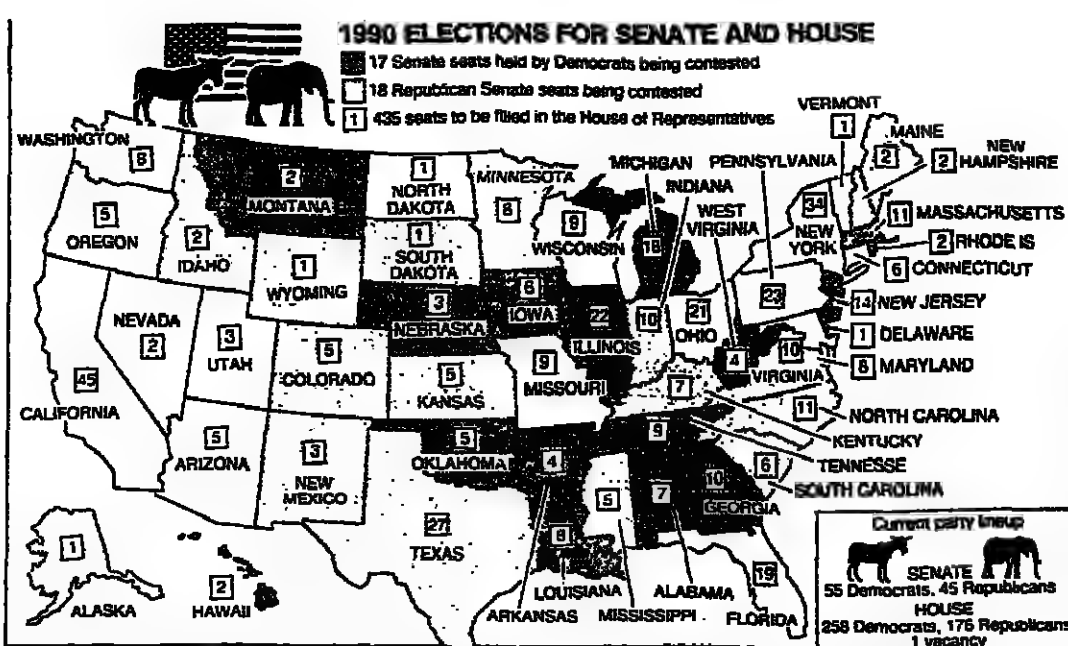
It is the governorships that really matter. Next year there will be a once-a-decade redistribution of House seats to reflect national population shifts. This could swing 40 seats. State legislatures redraw the congressional district boundaries, and only the governor's veto can prevent them gerrymandering. This explains the Republicans' desperation to retain the governorships of California, Florida and Texas, all of which have Democrat-controlled legislatures. These states will gain 14 new congressmen between them; their combined delegations would then account for nearly a quarter of the entire House.

All three races are close. In California, the biggest prize, last-minute polls showed Pete Wilson, the Republican, fractionally ahead of Dianne Feinstein, the former mayor of San Francisco. In Texas, scene of the year's nastiest gubernatorial contest, Democrat Ann Richards has in the campaign's dying days pulled level for the first time with Republican Clayton Williams. In Florida, Bob Marti-

nez, the Republican governor, set out as an unpopular incumbent but has clawed his way back to a virtual dead heat with his Democratic challenger, Lawton Chiles, a maverick former senator who will not accept more than \$100 from any contributor and spurns modern electioneering techniques. There are three other big states to watch. In Massachusetts, with voters seething at the outgoing Democratic administration of Michael Dukakis, John Silber has been waging an angry outsider's campaign to fight off Republican William Weld. In Illinois, Jim Edgar is struggling to retain the governorship for the Republicans in the face of the anti-tax campaign of Democrat Neil Hartigan. In Ohio, George Voinovich, the former mayor of Cleveland, could snatch the governorship for the Republicans despite a late resurgence by the Democrat, Anthony Celebrezze.

Add potential Democratic gains from "redistricting" to a couple of Senate gains and a dozen or more Republican losses in today's House elections and the balance of power in Washington would begin to shift decisively.

At present Democrats have a 55-45 Senate majority and 258 of the 435 House seats, a record for an opposition party in a presi-



dent's first term. A two-thirds majority in both houses is required to override a presidential veto, but even with the present composition some of Mr Bush's 16 vetoes to date have been sustained by a handful of votes.

This lends importance to the six of the 35 Senate races where incumbents, three Republicans and three Democrats, are in trouble. The most prominent is Jesse Helms of North Carolina, the veteran conservative who, after an ugly campaign with racist overtones, goes into the election fractionally behind Harvey Gantt, the liberal champion of the "new South" who would be America's

first black Democratic senator. In Oregon, Mark Hatfield, the Republican incumbent for 24 years, has been battling to ward off Harry Lonsdale, a Democrat businessman who has tapped anti-incumbent, anti-Washington sentiment. That same anti-incumbent mood has Minnesota Republican Rudy Boschwitz fighting for his political survival.

The Republicans may lose one or two senators, but they have high hopes of ousting Daniel Akaka, the Hawaiian Democrat, and slim hopes that Tom Tauke, a Republican congressman, could still defeat Tom Harkin in Iowa and that voter anger with anyone

associated with Michael Dukakis could topple John Kerry, the Democratic senator in Massachusetts. They would be satisfied if they can maintain the status quo in the Senate. Their real hope of regaining control lies in the 1992 elections, when several Democratic senators who won seats with small majorities in 1986 must face re-election.

Apart from Mr Tanke, the Senate Republican campaign committee recruited four other popular congressmen to challenge for Senate seats held by vulnerable Democrats, but the tactic appears to have failed. Lynn Martin's \$6 million challenge to the liberal

Paul Simon of Illinois looks doomed, as does Claude Schneider's against Rhode Island's elderly, patrician Claiborne Pell and Bill Schuette's against Michigan's left-leaning Carl Levin.

Sitting congressmen, like sitting senators, enjoy overwhelming financial advantages and are notoriously difficult to remove. More than 98 per cent were re-elected in 1986 and 1988, and this year is likely to be little different. In about 380 of the 435 elections incumbents have little or no competition. The real battleground is for the 29 seats where the incumbent is stepping down. Of those, 18 are held by Republicans and 11 by Democrats.

Over the past week Mr Bush appears to have stemmed a Republican free-fall by diverting public attention from the budget fiasco to the Gulf. But there has been a conspicuous lack of an overriding political issue to galvanise voters. The Republicans fear that many supporters, disillusioned by its agreement to raise taxes, may stay at home. The Savings and Loan crisis and the budget fiasco has engendered a "throw-the-bums-out" mood. It is likely, for example, that Lowell Weicker and Walter Hickel, both former Republicans, will win the gubernatorial contests in Connecticut and Alaska to become only the fourth and fifth independent governors this century. In Vermont Bernie Sanders could well become the first socialist congressman since 1950.

Bush profile, page 14

Rebellion in ruling party will force Singh out of office

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA was thrown into political chaos yesterday when the governing Janata Dal (People's Party) split into rival factions, making it certain that Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the prime minister, will be driven from office.

The worsening turmoil will have a disastrous impact across the volatile northern Hindi heartland, which is already torn by caste battles and some of the worst Hindu-Muslim violence in four decades. Reports flowed in last night of continuing caste and communal bloodshed.

Anti-Singh rebels knew they could not muster enough support to topple the prime minister during a crucial meeting of the parliamentary

party, so they decided instead to hold a rival meeting and choose their own leader, Chandra Shekhar. Mr Singh last night dismissed 25 rebel MPs from the party. Three other parties making up the coalition government, including the Communists, reaffirmed backing for him.

Mr Shekhar has been a prominent political figure for more than 25 years and has hailed ceaselessly against Mr Singh's leadership after being outmanoeuvred for the job in a last-minute backroom deal in December. He has formed an alliance with Devi Lal, the erratic former deputy prime minister sacked by Mr Singh for disloyalty.

The Shekhar faction mus-

tered enough support to ensure that it can break away from the Janata Dal without infringing anti-defection regulations, which require defections to be supported by a third of the party. The exact number of MPs backing the rebellion was not clear, but seems to have exceeded 47, the minimum necessary. Mr Singh's faction was attended by 83 of the party's 140 MPs, with at least two more sending letters of support.

What happens next will become clear after tomorrow when the Lok Sabha (lower house) votes on a one-line confidence motion submitted by Mr Singh. His defeat is inevitable. The rebels will then seek to cement an understanding with Rajiv Gandhi, leader of the opposition Congress (I) party, to support a new administration with Mr Shekhar as prime minister. Mr Shekhar and Mr Gandhi are due to hold talks today.

There is an outside possibility that Mr Gandhi will seek to become prime minister, backed by the Shekhar faction. This will depend on President Venkatarman, who has constitutional authority to accept or reject new political alignments. He might decide to call a general election, although he is determined to avoid doing so for fear of unleashing greater violence.

The right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party, whose withdrawal of parliamentary support for Mr Singh precipitated the upheaval, ordered a one-day strike in Delhi over the government's defence of a mosque in Ayodhya which Hindu militants want demolished. Muslim MPs backed the prime minister, rewarding him for his refusal to allow the mosque to be knocked down.

1941 plan 'to sell off New Guinea'

FROM ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY

DETAILS of a bizarre 1941 American proposal to sell New Guinea to Japan in exchange for the withdrawal of Japanese forces in China were disclosed here yesterday. America was to fund the sale to buy time for building up its forces against Japan.

Without the knowledge of Australia or the Netherlands, New Guinea's then rulers, declassified US state department documents found at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, outlined an agreement of sale of the Pacific island. Japan was to repay America with the withdrawal of troops and transfer of naval and merchant ships in a £10.5 billion deal.

In November 1941, when

Australia feared a Japanese invasion through New Guinea and just three weeks before the attack on Pearl Harbour, the state department feared its plan could provoke cries of appeasement to preserve regional American territories at its allies' expense.

According to the *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the documents' author, Maxwell Hamilton, head of the division of Far Eastern affairs at the state department, wrote the proposal on November 18, 1941, the day Japanese submarines set out for their attack on Pearl Harbour. That attack paid to the idea.

Australian historians reacted to the sale proposal with great surprise yesterday.



Taken in hand: Reynaldo Bernardo, alleged leader of a communist hit squad blamed for killing a US army officer and scores of Philippine police and soldiers, being escorted by a military policeman after his capture in Quezon

Amnesty accuses Burma of brutality

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Burmese military government has created a secret state of terror, killing thousands in a ruthless purge on dissidents, according to an Amnesty International report.

People are living in a climate of fear, says the report, and simply knowing a government crime can bring the risk of arrest and detention by the military. Thousands of people have been shot dead by soldiers, gunned down on the streets or in back alleys in a dramatic upsurge of abuse since 1988. The military arrests people anywhere and has relentlessly tortured government critics. Hundreds of people have vanished into the prison system and into 19 detention centres where torture was carried out, according to the report. Torture is an ever-present threat for political prisoners.

Monks who took part in recent anti-government demonstrations had been killed, while opposition leaders and MPs were arrested. The judicial system has been reduced to an assembly line feeding Burmese prisons, the report said. Martial law provides these tribunals with absolute authority in political cases and strips defendants of important rights.

Even though the May elections returned an overwhelming majority against the military rulers, the government has shown no sign of relinquishing power.

The regime retains power through brutality. Along with the shootings are repeated reports of torture: favourite methods include "walking on the sea-shore", being forced to crawl on broken glass or sharp gravel; "riding the motorcycle" in which the victim is forced to crouch over an imaginary motorcycle, and the "iron road" where an iron bar or a bamboo cane is rolled up and down the shins until the skin comes off.

Change of line on Tiananmen

By TIFFANY BROWN

THE Tiananmen Square protest was symptomatic of unhappiness among both intellectuals and workers and was not the "counter-revolution" Chinese officialdom likes to portray, according to Ji Chaozhu, the Chinese ambassador to Britain.

The intellectuals were dissatisfied because they were not benefiting from economic reforms and the workers because, having doubled their incomes, they were taxed for the first time. Meanwhile, party officials and "unscrupulous middlemen" were lining their pockets in underhand deals. "The situation eventually exploded — and we were caught unprepared. The reforms, while they brought much good, brought many

unexpected things; no one expected such a thing. People were killed — there is no question about that."

But the international sanctions imposed after the Peking killings were "quite unfair and unreasonable". In his first interview since the events of June 1989, Mr Ji said: "We do not know where Amnesty International gets its information. Anyway, each country must be allowed its own penal system. We have every intention of respecting human rights, that was the reason for the revolution. Before, millions were dying of starvation — that has been stopped. That is a major contribution to human rights."

Why did the killings happen? "The main square was

occupied for about a month ... at a standstill ... something had to be done. But the shooting did not start right away. There was no other instrument to restore order — we tried by totally peaceful means. You could see that on Western television — I could see the army men with linked arms, trying to clear the square — and being beaten with sticks and rocks. When soldiers were killed ... then the firing began."

Mr Ji said Hong Kong had nothing to fear. "There is no possibility of changing from 'one party, two systems'. It is China's main trading partner, and is inextricably linked with our Guangdong province in a mutually beneficial arrangement."

Colony sued by boat people

Hong Kong — A group of 111 Vietnamese boat people sued the government here for illegal detention yesterday, arguing that they were en route to Japan and had stopped here only temporarily when their boat was wrecked.

The group, held in detention centres since marine police towed their leaking 70-tonne boat ashore on May 1, 1989, claim they had accepted a government offer to repair their boat and provide food and water, but the boat was ransacked, all personal belongings and valuables stolen or damaged, and those on board sent to detention centres. The case is expected to end today. (Reuters)

Zimbabwe ban

Harare — For the first time since 1919, no remembrance service will be held at the cenotaph here because of a ban imposed by the government. The date coincides with the 25th anniversary of Ian Smith's unilateral declaration of independence, which began his 15-year attempt to prevent black rule in Rhodesia.

Mentally unfit

Bonn — Adelheid Strudel, 42, a receptionist who almost killed Oskar Lafontaine, the German Social Democrat's candidate for chancellor, with a butcher's knife at a political rally in April, was found mentally unfit by a court in Cologne and sent to a closed psychiatric clinic. She pleaded guilty and said she was sorry the attack had failed.

Attack by lion

Castellon, Spain — A lion tamer who was clawed in the neck and thigh by one of his lions during his circus act was in serious condition after undergoing surgery here, a hospital spokeswoman said. (AP)

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LET IT THROUGH THE TIMES

Laying frazzled chips to rest

TOKYO NOTEBOOK by Joe Joseph

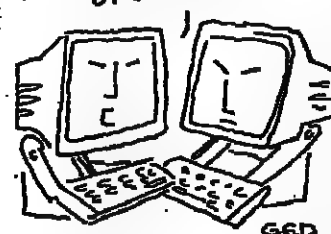
You may still find cause to nudge the Japanese about their lukewarm enthusiasm for environmental issues but you will no longer be able to accuse them of mistreating their microchips. On Sunday, dozens of Japan's top electronics engineers held a Buddhist service at a Tokyo temple to pray for microchips and other sophisticated electronics components that have been worn out during rigorous experimental testing on the laboratory bench.

Although many Japanese have a fairly unsentimental attitude towards animals — if the sea bream being sliced up by the sushi chef is not twitching as he fillets it, diners may complain that the fish is not fresh enough — they like to pay their respects to inanimate objects that have served them well.

It is not new for solemn temple services to be held for worn-out daily household items, such as needles and brushes, to show gratitude for their usefulness. But Japanese engineers have only now begun to feel a pang of guilt about the sacrifices made by microchips which have spent exhausting lives in the research department, and which never found fulfilment in a computer or television set.

The engineers decided that since Japanese products have a reputation

I'm an atheist
Fill the chips
are down



for durability and reliability, Tokyo's Chomeiji (long life) temple would be a suitable spot for the service. A Buddhist priest chanted sutras to lay the frazzled chips to rest.

One microchip that seems to have somehow survived the testing bench has been put into a new Fujitsu computer that is the centrepiece of Japan's first electronic translation service.

A prototype of the linguistic computer was unveiled to Margaret Thatcher when she visited Fujitsu

during her trip to Japan last year and was quickly veiled again when it failed to perform as fluently as Fujitsu had hoped. All of Japan's computer giants are developing translating machines, but Fujitsu has now become the first to offer the public a chance to have a page of Japanese translated into English for 800 yen (£3).

Unfortunately, Fujitsu's pride in its new baby persuaded it to use the machine to translate its own publicity handout for the service. As a result, part of the brochure reads: "The majority of the result is announced in Japanese through an active research of the science and technology in Japan is paid attention all over the world. Therefore, even the blame that Japan is defended by the wall of the word arises."

But the computer in Japan has been given an unusual endorsement from Emperor Akihito, who has confessed he uses a word processor not only to write up his research in marine biology but also to compose *tanka*, 31-syllable old Japanese monarshs are trained to dream up at moving moments in their lives.

Many Japanese also compose *tanka* as a hobby, but usually with dainty black brushstrokes.

Voice of revolution silent in a nation ripe for change

SOVIET television last week showed a long programme about the émigré Russian writer Leonid Andreyev and his archive, which is maintained at Leeds University. Andreyev left Russia after the revolution a sworn anti-communist and ended his days in Finland. His writings are treasured among Russian intellectuals now for their contemporary relevance.

Reminiscing about the period 1914-17, Andreyev wrote that everyone was blaming someone different for the dreadful state of affairs: the tsar, the government, or Lenin and the revolutionaries.

Accounts of the last years before the Bolshevik revolution, the 73rd anniversary of which will be marked in a turbulent Soviet Union tomorrow, are increasingly scoured by Russians in the search for an analogy with what is happening today.

More than seven decades on, everyone is again blaming everyone else — if they ever stopped doing so. They certainly blame President Gorbachev and the Communist party, the tsar and his courtiers of today; they certainly blame the government.

But one group is missing: the absence of any revolutionary alternative is conspicuous. Calls for the downfall of the regime, an end to the "patronage", the dissolution of the government, are heard repeatedly. But nobody is shouting "liberty, equality, fraternity", nor will they at the unofficial demonstrations tomorrow. Nobody is even shouting "democracy" and "free elections", as the Chinese students did. The Soviet

MOSCOW COMMENTARY

MARY DEJEVSKY

Union has no interday Lenin or Trotsky. It no longer even has its own dissident movement. Its elites, with the signal exception of the writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn, are silent about the future.

Even Solzhenitsyn is no candidate to lead Russia into the future. He is a prophet and an inspiration, but he is alone. He has no charismatic individual to transmit his ideas on the political scene, no team of assistants, and he would probably not want either.

There is massive discontent, social and ethnic friction; acute shortages and, despite repeated promises of reform, there is no clear way ahead. Yet no one in the Soviet Union or abroad is campaigning under a banner of revolution.

One school of thought holds that the struggle for daily survival, coupled with 70 years of repression, have stifled all inclination to revolt. Another argues that the political repression was lifted just in time; the revolutionaries who might have come from the dissident movement of the 1960s and 1970s have by and large been absorbed into mainstream opposition politics. Yet another view is that the concept of revolution, together with the words liberty, equality and fraternity, have been so devalued since 1917 that they no longer provide inspiration for change.

According to a further, no

less pessimistic argument, the Bolshevik revolution and its aftermath genetically "beheaded" the Russian nation, neutralising, killing or forcing into exile those most capable of independent thought.

There is, however, quite a different argument for the absence of revolutionaries ready to exploit a potentially revolutionary scenario. We are all looking for them in the wrong place.

Mr Gorbachev has increasingly cast himself as architect and supervisor of a revolution. Boris Yeltsin, although a more populist leader and for three years a political outsider, might seem a more plausible candidate for a revolution. But he, too, has sought to impose change from above.

Will revolution from above pre-empt revolution from below, or has it merely delayed it? And is it the lack of a revolutionary leader from outside, or Russian passivity, that so far has prevented popular discontent from exploding into popular anger?

The Next Frontier, Business Supplement



Minister on parade: Dmitry Yazov, the Soviet defence minister, shaking hands with generals yesterday at rehearsals in Moscow for a military parade tomorrow marking the 73rd anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution. The Communist party, facing growing hostility around the country,

has been forced to rely on the army as the main standard-bearer at the celebrations (Renter reports from Moscow). President Gorbachev has ordered the armed forces to hold parades in capitals of all 15 republics, in an attempt to restore a semblance of unity to the national holiday. He

denounced radical officials' calls not to observe the day as "suspicious". National movements in many republics have cancelled the celebrations, and radicals in charge of many cities have organised a day of mourning for the victims of Bolshevism.

Students march in France for more cash

From Philip Jacobson in Paris

TENS of thousands of high-school students took to the streets in towns and cities all over France yesterday in demonstrations that summoned up a distinct whiff of May 1968 and all that. The biggest turnout was in Paris, where about 30,000 young people marched on the National Assembly as deputies were preparing to debate the financial provisions of the new budget for education.

The Paris marchers set off under a single banner proclaiming "National Co-ordination of Lycéens", chanting rhythmic, occasionally rude, slogans directed at Lionel Jospin, the education minister. "More money, more teachers, more security" was a popular theme.

The Socialist government's protestations that more money is being spent on education today than ever before evidently cut no ice with those who have to cope with grossly overcrowded classrooms, lack of textbooks, and qualified teachers.

The pupils of the nation's lycées are clearly intent on regaining the momentum gathered by the first protests that began a month ago.

Italy makes plea for EC farm pact

From Michael Binyon in Brussels

EUROPEAN Community farm and trade ministers last night began more crucial negotiations on farm subsidy cuts amid warnings that the United States was losing patience with their dithering and was threatening to walk out of the world trade talks in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Renato Ruggiero, the Italian trade minister, told his colleagues, meeting for the seventh time on the issue, that time had run out. The EC could not allow a failure of the current Uruguay Round. A breakdown would strengthen protectionism throughout the world. He appealed to the ministers, especially the French and Germans, to negotiate in a spirit of compromise.

After a week of hectic backstage lobbying by the Italians, currently holding the EC presidency, Signor Ruggiero proposed three additional sweeteners to help the reluctant ministers swallow the commission package of cuts. These offered extra help to encourage community preferences, for land set aside and dedicated to non-food use, and for less favoured regions of the EC.

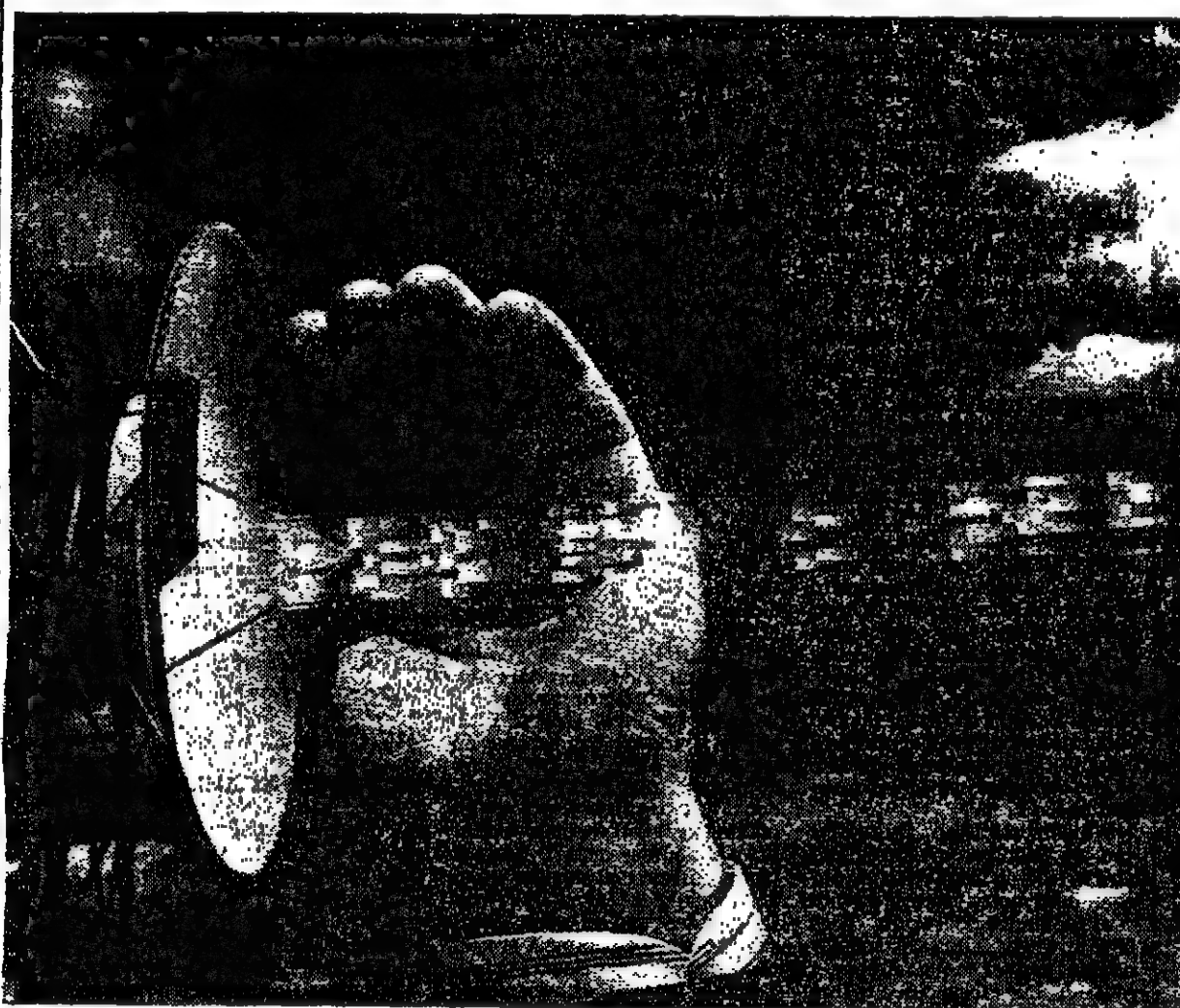
A spokesman said the package was intended to include "something for everyone" — the first declaration being aimed at the French, Belgians and Irish, the second at helping German farmers wanting production limitations and the third at Mediterranean countries objecting to making the same deep cuts in support as those demanded of richer northern farmers. Britain was deeply unhappy at any further



Gummer: pressing for urgent farm agreement

watering down of the Community offer, which it believes the minimum the EC's GATT partners will accept. But John Gummer, the agricultural secretary, said at the start of the meeting that the urgent priority was now to reach agreement so that the EC could put its agricultural offer on the table in Geneva.

The ministers were warned yesterday that they must reach agreement now by the import



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Rome enquiry into 'Gladiator' scandal

From Richard Bassett in Rome

ALLEGATIONS at the weekend that Nato planned an armed uprising by right-wing groups, in the event of communists winning elections in certain European countries, including Italy, led yesterday to renewed calls here for the resignation of President Cossiga.

The Italian parliament will today discuss Operation Gladiator, details of which have scandalised the political establishment and further undermined Giulio Andreotti's shaky coalition government.

The "gladiators" were allegedly groups of servicemen working with the CIA. They established cells in all Nato countries prepared to fight a Soviet invasion or, more controversially, combat the threat of communism from within the state.

Felice Casson, a Venetian judge, discovered details of Operation Gladiator by chance at a trial last week. As the full scope of the operation has become known, a number of former ministers have found difficulty in explaining to a sceptical Italian public

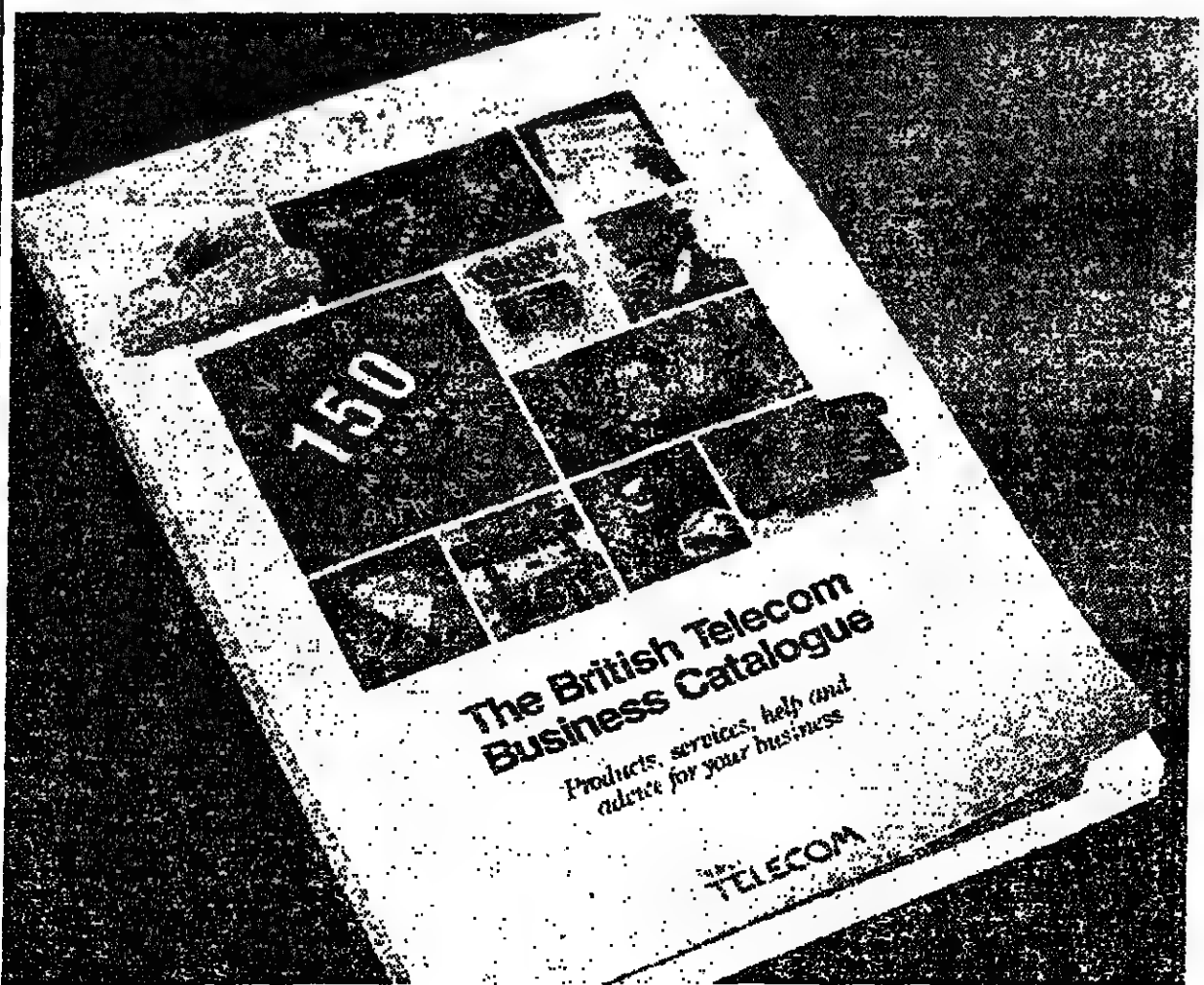
why they had never heard of it. Chief among these is Signor Francesco Cossiga.

As minister of the interior during the 1970s, he has already come under fire recently for his alleged failure to secure the release of Aldo Moro, the Christian Democrat leader who was kidnapped and murdered by the Red Brigades.

This allegation, with the subsequent discovery of Operation Gladiator, has angered many Italians, who unsurprisingly resent the idea that their sovereignty had been undermined for years by the CIA.

The leader of the Independent Left party, Franco Bassolino, called yesterday for the impeachment of President Cossiga, on the ground of failing to uphold Italy's sovereignty.

To calm the mounting political storm surrounding Operation Gladiator, Signor Andreotti yesterday ordered an investigating commission to examine all the allegations and to have unprecedented access to Italian state security files.



Her rhetoric gets results

Woodrow Wyatt

Why is she so abrasive? If only she were more polite and agreeably receptive to the views of our European partners she would have much more influence from the inside. There is a strong sense of *déjà vu* about these propositions. They emanate from the same people who attacked the prime minister in 1981 and 1984 for her strenuous campaign to reduce the over-charge in Britain's net EC contributions. They thought it anti-European of her to invite discord over a measly thousand million pounds or so, the surrender of which would make us more popular in Europe.

She ignored the vehement criticism of the great and good who swam like rich 18th-century aristocrats in policy-making circles and who disdain vulgar squabbles over the size of a bill, particularly if the money is not theirs but the taxpayers'. But since she began her EC contribution battles we have had rebates worth £10 billion — not exactly a trivial tip that should have been given without fuss to a head waiter to show *bonhomie*.

There was the same distaste at her anger over the refusal to deal with the urgent matter of farm subsidies at the Rome summit. Strangely, this was described as *non-communautaire*. Why not let the Germans, the French and the Italians happily continue to enrich themselves by subsidising their inefficient farmers whose votes may determine election results? But it was the Brussels Commission itself that was so keen on implementing the proposed farm subsidy cuts from 1986 to 1995 by 30 per cent which, allowing for reductions already made, would mean not more than 15 per cent now. Even Brussels saw the danger of the rest of the world being so infuriated by the wrecking of the Uruguay international Gatt round that they would put up with tariff barriers against the EC in reply to the Community's denial of access to its markets of cheaper farm products.

Mrs Thatcher is slammed for fighting for British interests. She is slammed for fighting for EC interests. She and those who agree with her are labelled "little Englanders" by those who are "little Europeans". They believe the EC can self-sufficiently ignore the outside world. The *Financial Times*, no friend of Mrs Thatcher, wrote on October 23 that with this posture the EC would be left examining "its economic, monetary and political naval — all the while watching the international trading system disintegrate around it". Of course, Mrs Thatcher could have fudged with mollifying words. Her great value to Britain and the EC is that she never does. She forces the consideration of stark reality however much it may temporarily offend genteel spirits who like to pretend it is not there.

At home they preferred to talk

about the distant goals of a single currency and a supreme central European bank. Mrs Thatcher disturbed the cosy conversation by demanding to know what such notions would lead to. We have been enthusiastic leaders in implementing the Single European Act, in tearing down commercial and trading barriers between the EC countries, despite the deliberate dallying behind, some very far behind, of others. Enthusiasts for the extinction of our national identity by a federal Europe run from Brussels rely on its inevitability because of three words after the heading of a chapter in the Single European Act called "Co-operation in Economic and Monetary Policy". The words, and they are in brackets, are "economic and monetary union".

This is already happening without consent. Rightly or wrongly we have fully entered the European Monetary System by joining the exchange-rate mechanism. To go further into a single currency, a central European bank and complete political union would need an act of Parliament. Particularly as the words of the Single European Act require that "for the further development of the community, member states shall... take account of the experience acquired in co-operation within the framework of the EMS and in developing the eco".

Britain's full membership of the EMS since last month is clearly insufficient experience on which to base any further steps. Nigel Lawson is an enthusiast for ERM, but on October 23 in the Commons he reiterated his vehement opposition to a single currency and a European central bank. "A single European currency means a federal Europe," Mr Lawson is in favour of independent central banks co-operating closely together but not of one dominating European central bank. Others who agree with him also know that Britain would be unable to make its own budget, fix its own tax rates or set its own interest rates. QED: the end of any effective national sovereignty.

These issues are so grave that they should be decided by a national referendum some time after the next election. There is no hurry. Many objections will come from other EC members now that Mrs Thatcher in her blunt, fruitful way has started to make them look seriously at the implications. We shall not be left on the sidelines and without influence on the outcome. Meanwhile, Tories should forget the receding non-event of Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation, and trust John Major to get the economy right in time, and together with the prime minister and Douglas Hurd to deal wisely in Europe. Tory MPs should tell the opportunist Mr Heseltine to get lost without promoting a divisive leadership contest in which he would be the permanently discredited loser.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Yes, since you ask, it was a very busy weekend indeed. I spent the whole of it rewriting my will.

I suppose I should amplify that terse announcement, if only to settle the fluttering breasts of those who might believe themselves to be my legatees, and who are even now muttering, blamey that has to be some will, it has taken him two days to rewrite it. He must have more than anyone guessed. I always thought there was something a bit fly about him. I wonder who gets the chain of casinos. I wonder who gets the Reeperbahn houses. I wonder who gets the un-catalogued Van Goghs and the lost dinner service of Tutankhamun?

Forget it. It was not the rewriting that took the weekend, it was the rereading of that with which the rewriting was concerned. I have been going through my unpublished works. I have been sorting them out into teetering piles. I have been putting the prospect of immortality into cardboard boxes. Only when that was done did I rewrite the will.

You will, I know, have been following the Larkin cause *ma chère*. How could you have missed it? For weeks, not only have the casements of Fitzrovia rattled to the din of grinding axes, the future has spilled over into every public print and on to every public channel, as those who have never read a line of poetry throw their two pennorth into the posthumous tussle between an unacknowledged legislator of the world and the battalions of acknowledged ones. I shall say nothing of that, since so much has already been said that the words expended on whether Larkin wanted his unpublished stuff destroyed now considerably outnumber the words of his published stuff, and anyway, this is about me.

Perhaps nothing so distinguishes the poet from the hack as his attitude towards his unpublished work. The poet's attic is full of stuff he wouldn't publish, the hack's only of stuff he couldn't. For one thing, there is never anything a hack is so ashamed of writing that it prevents him from seeking someone who is not ashamed of

publishing it, and for another, while the poet's ditty-boxes are crammed with letters, notebooks, diaries, well-turned suicide notes for such deployment as future despair might require and various other private scribbles, all of which stand testament to man's need to express the innermost turnings of his soul, the hack's have nothing in them except those agglomerations of correspondence and invoice which stand testament only to man's need to keep the wolf at the far end of the garden path.

For the hack is disinclined to squander time on private epistle and journal which might be more profitably spent in cobbling a piece for *Plumbing Today*, or, indeed, a smarmy note to the Inland Revenue agent the deductibility of new fitted carpet without which the productivity of creative premises might be seriously impaired. Yet the hack, too, yearns as much as the poet for posthumous bonus: it is not, of course, the prospect of immortality moves him, merely the thought of leaving stuff behind that could be parlayed for a bob or two.

I do not claim that my boxes of unmarketable typescript will bring literary scholars cartwheeling down the pavements, nor that my long and fascinating correspondence with Lex Volvo will change the face of epistolary history as we know it (since Lex Volvo is not a fashionable Latin-American novelist but simply the organisation which supplied an estate car with an apparently irreparable clunk), but I have nevertheless taken steps to ensure that all this and more will, after I am dead, appear between remunerative hard covers.

I have inserted a clause in my will insuring that all my unpublished work be published. I have specified the publisher, who, I am utterly confident, will be unable to wriggle free of the paramount wishes of the deceased without a legal cost to himself considerably in excess of the advances I have taken pains to calculate and demand.

Not, I guess, that he will want to. Why, with a modicum of luck, the juridical barney alone should flog a good few copies.

The Times Profile: George Bush. The American president faces a crucial test of standing in elections today and a giant decision soon on when to go to war

The pilot flies on instinct



A few days ago, with his political fortunes falling around him, his friends deserting him in droves and with Saddam Hussein taking an unusual pleasure in *The Washington Post* opinion pages, George Bush went out for a quiet dinner in a private house in Georgetown. There were the usual folk — the CIA chief William Webster and his new wife, Lynda, the former British ambassador and Lady Acland, a supportive property developer, a Supreme Court judge, and a few more.

There were no votes to be won for today's mid-term elections except from the servants, no arms to be twisted except in play. The president signed a certificate welcoming Mrs Webster as a new member of the intelligence community. Security was tight. He was as relaxed as if he were a Roman emperor with successful armies conquering the world for him while he caroused.

Many charges have been laid against George Bush in the past weeks but no one has suggested that the job is getting on top of the man. In recent days he has been cheerfully speaking to difficult campaign audiences throughout the country in races whose results will inevitably and unfairly be judged as a verdict on his presidency. Thirty years ago he was a model of the anxious American businessman, balancing the demands of Texas oil customers with the duties of good citizen and father until a stomach ulcer stopped him in his tracks. Today, the heavens might fall and George Bush's first thought would be to put the event in proportion.

Which is just as well for him — if, sometimes, disquieting for those whose job is to advise the president or predict what he might do. Millions of words have been written since August about how Iraq's opponents should read the mind of Saddam Hussein, but just imagine, as a White House aide suggested on Friday, being Saddam Hussein and trying to understand George Bush. Saddam could listen to a thousand crumpled sentences from the president and they would not much help his comprehension. Mr Bush says that he has "had it" over Iraqi treatment of hostages. With one side of his uneven grin he talks of war, with the other of diplomacy. One day the well-informed writers at *The New York Times* describe a chaotic presidency, with as little idea of its Gulf strategy as it had about its budget. On the next day, equally well-informed White House reporters say how consistent he has been.

Which is the truth? Perhaps, if you are Saddam, you shrug and turn to reading the rubbish in your own newspapers. Arabs do not care too much for words. They look at what Mr Bush is actually doing. They see enough firepower in the Saudi Arabian desert to turn Baghdad into the proverbial parking lot. They also see an unprecedented alliance put together by a man who is every foreign leader's friend. Does he have it in him to make war? Does he have it in him not to make war? Who knows?

If the Iraqi dictator is asking these questions he is doing today what dozens of George Bush's opponents have done in the past: attempting to discover more about the man than he knows himself. This is no easy task. President Reagan had an agenda; President Carter, whose discredited record Mr Bush has been recalling on the stump this week, wore his heart on his sleeve; the affable President Ford is sometimes likened to Mr Bush; so is President Eisenhower, but both of those men had a solidity which George Bush somehow seems to lack.

"Grappling with Bush is like beating up on air," commented one former Reagan aide. "He likes

to think of himself as a pragmatist, but pragmatists know where they're going. I don't know where George Bush is going or where he is taking us. I don't think that he does either."

This line of criticism does not, however, take the opponent very far. The idea that George Bush "lacks a vision" has become an inadequate cliché: it has always been dangerous for Bush opponents to move from a perception of him as a "nowhere man" to that of a "nothing man". Manuel Noriega made that mistake when he thought that his long links with the president and his other American friends would protect him in his Panama City palace. Michael Dukakis got the answer wrong when he thought that the Bush presidential campaign would be as decent as the man himself.

Meanwhile, George Bush has reached the half-way point of what is still a remarkably successful first presidential term. A few months ago he was so popular that no Democrat opponents had taken the trouble to prepare for a White House bid in 1992, hoping to wait for a crack at Dan Quayle in 1996. He had won wide praise for his careful creative approach to the collapse of communism.

Now he has only normal levels of presidential mid-term support. Opponents, including the New York Governor Mario Cuomo and Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia are finally gathering in the Democratic ranks. In his own party the right talks of putting up the isolationist conservative, Patrick Buchanan, for a primary

"Grappling with George Bush is like beating up on air. I don't know where he is going"

of dissent. Loyalist campaign shouts of "Bush, Bush, Bush" have been met this week by right-wing replies of "Squish, squish, squish" and Republicans still squirm at the debates over the budget. But, outside Washington, it is hard to discern deep popular disquiet about George Bush. Although he has not shown himself a strong positive leader, he enjoys enormous respect.

It is true that he was decisively rejected when, seeking support for his tax-raising budget compromise, he appeared on television over the heads of his colleagues to the American people. But the trouble with that budget appeal, according to an aide who has worked for both Bush and Reagan, was that a president who believes in reaching solutions behind closed doors was not being true to himself. In the Reagan era, most of the response to a television message was prepared in advance; the phone-ins to congressmen were organised. Unless he is fighting an election, and not always even then, George Bush can't be doing with that stuff.

The 41st president of the United States has never been called a man of ideas. It is hard to think of any

serious thought to which his name can be attached. Last year some friendly commentators tried to formulate a "Bush doctrine" out of the mass of reactions to the death of communism. Last week, at a dinner of sympathetic Republican supporters, no one could remember quite what the doctrine was, but nobody thought that mattered very much.

In the past few weeks he has been in open war with his own party machine, but had results, unless they are unprecedentedly bad, are unlikely to inflict serious damage on the president's personal standing. A cock-a-bop Congress of Democrats may make certain acts of government harder, but the president has long perfected the art of putting trouble in its place. He is a genuinely well-balanced man. He does not elevate politics too high.

This week, after months of snug budget summery with Democrat leaders, he set off on the campaign trail, bashing them for taxing and spending and, backstabbing as though they were enuchs of Saddam Hussein. Only if one treated stump speeches like a parlour game could one happily troop around the southern states as the president did at the weekend. The man who was a Republican congressman in the Sixties, Republican national committee director and CIA chief in the Seventies, vice-president and president in the Eighties, asks to be seen as the "outsider" of the Nineties. He bashes the villains of Washington as though he had never even visited the place; but it is without malice. No political opponent would

look through the president's speeches for a guide to what George Bush might do. He once described Reaganism as "voodoo economics" but cheerfully swallowed the magic medicine for years. He made the famous pledge to "read my list: no new taxes" to win the Republican nomination against Senator Bob Dole, but the right-wing tax-cutters never believed him anyway. George Bush is no master of the English language. He scrambles for words as though he were scraping the bottom of a fish tank. "I am not a very articulate emotionalist," he told reporters who asked about his feelings after the Malta summit.

Most Americans outside New York and Los Angeles are not very articulate emotionalists either. To understand George Bush, one may need to go further back than the past few years of strangled, exaggerated, ungrammatical utterances about diplomacy, war and tax. The president is part of an America which is patrician, unassuming and understated. He is "the master of the small gesture" according to John Sununu, the White House chief of staff. There are cards of thanks from George Bush on sideboards and mantelpieces all over America. As a result of this flowing *bonhomie*, Mr Sununu's own gestures must often be larger and rougher than his chief's. But Mr Sununu is dispensable. "Like a field latrine, when he is full, he can be covered up and a new hole dug somewhere else," said one Republican observer.

Outdoor military metaphors and earthy humour are an important part of the atmosphere in the Bush camp. The president is a world leader of the second world war generation, one of the last in harness. He was the youngest aviator in the navy and had a good war about which, he himself is reticent, although his hagiographers are not. On the day that he calls for air strikes on Baghdad he will have more personal experience of facing enemy bullets than any president since Eisenhower.

Mr Bush's sense of personal connection with his soldiers and with the American civilians in Baghdad and Kuwait is likely to be a key determinant of war in the Gulf. When he was a young man in 1940, he was deeply affected by a lecture from the elder statesman, Henry Stimson, who was a powerful advocate of the moral case for intervention. Although he is less effective than Stimson in communicating his convictions, that does not mean that his sense of the violation of right by wrong is not just as great. His is a simple code and Saddam Hussein has broken it.

That conclusion cannot be derived from a theory or a vision. Its truth emerges from a mass of chatter, a hundred phone calls with old friends, like the secretary of state James Baker and new confidantes like Margaret Thatcher. The process may not have been satisfying to his press critics. This week's *New Republic* magazine complains that George Bush's policy is not just guided by the wind and the currents, it is the wind and the currents. Saddam could take some comfort from this, since it will help him believe the president might indeed be prepared to leave him in Baghdad, according to the dictates of the international weather forecast.

If President Bush's international allies fall as fast as the Republican opinion poll ratings have done, then he may be less relaxed on his next Georgetown outing. Instead of playing the successful Roman emperor, he may look more like the last emperor of China, whose provinces fell unobserved while he ate. In the meantime, the president, preparing to be a war leader, can enjoy his food more than can his enemies at home or abroad.

Top of the hostage parade

Saddam Hussein's military girdle around Kuwait has not stifled the inventiveness of BBC World Service listeners trapped there. To the delight of John Tusi and his staff, a steady trickle of letters has been reaching Bush House from Britons hiding in Kuwait City.

Many of the letters are addressed to Dave Lee Travis, whose pop music programme *A John Good Show* is beamed to the Middle East. "We know that the hostages in Iraq and those still in hiding in Kuwait can pick up his show and it has been boosting morale," says a Bush House source. One letter in particular, from a group of electricians, raised a raucous cheer when it arrived in London. It bore an Iraqi stamp and had been delivered by the usual postal system.

The Post Office says that on average 600 letters a day are received from Baghdad, but most letters from Kuwait are now being smuggled out by released British hostages and other foreign nationals.

Despite yesterday's complaints by Tory MP Sir John Stokes about the "mewling and pining" of hostages and their families, the great majority of the missives are jolly and optimistic, and Travis's show regularly plays requests. One recent letter, posted in London after being smuggled out, was from an unnamed group of eight ex-patriates.

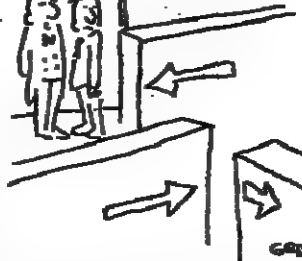
"This letter may be the last chance to communicate with anybody by mail," says the letter. "And as we are regular listeners of

your programme a request played on your show would give us a big lift. We have compiled our top 20 for Kuwait, which includes: 'Home is where the heart is' (for the Emir of Kuwait) and 'Only the lonely' (for Saddam Hussein)."

Barbican blues

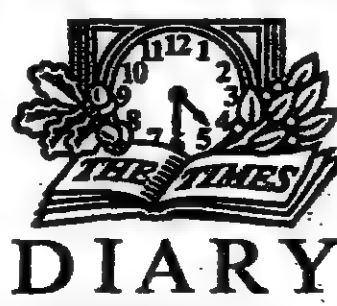
A trucks bearing the Royal Shakespeare Company's props and scenery trundle west to Stratford, the Barbican is having to convince customers that not all of the centre is dark. The switchboard has been jammed with calls from sympathetic well-wishers commiserating with staff

we'd have a full house if they could find the entrance



at the concert hall and galleries about the arts centre's demise. "A lot of people are perfectly clear what the Barbican is about," says Chris Senior the Barbican's marketing director, "but there are also people who labour under the misapprehension that because the RSC has pulled out temporarily, the Barbican has closed."

The centre has launched a publicity offensive with a press release entitled "Barbican Centre succeeds". It is bursting with facts and figures about the Barbican's



programme, and includes a statement from Dena O'Carroll, the centre's managing director. "Despite rumours of the Centre's complete closure sparked off by the withdrawal of the RSC, the Barbican Centre's public continues to support us and the programme we have to offer."

But there is an element of bravado here. Despite a claim that it was a sell-out, last night's performance by the London Bach Orchestra in the 2,500-seat concert hall was barely a third full.

Pyramid selling

Twenty-one months after the death threat against Salman Rushdie, another writer, Egyptian-born Dr Ahmed Osman, faces threats for offending with his pen. Dr Osman, who lives in London, has incensed his countrymen with a new book, *Moses Pharaoh of Egypt*, which claims that Moses and the Pharaoh Akhenaten, the father of Tutankhamun, were the same person. The British Museum has already refused to stock it, but was not prepared to discuss its decision.

Osman has received a number of threatening telephone calls and

fears his native country may also ban the book, after Egyptian newspapers labelled him another Salman Rushdie. "I have deeply offended Jews and Christians but I do not apologise for what I have written. It's carefully researched. I have had threats and I may go into hiding if they get worse. The book has caused deep offence in Egypt. There is widespread anger that I have suggested one of our most famous pharaohs was the son of an Israelite mother. The Jews object to the fact I say Moses is an Egyptian."

Osman is no stranger to controversy. His last book, *Stranger in the Valley of Kings*, was banned in Egypt. He might be glad if this one is banned too.

● Sir Richard Acland, the octogenarian baronet who donated Holnicote Estate, Exmoor, to the National Trust in 1944 on the strict understanding that hunting could always continue, has not joined a hunt since he was a fresh-faced teenager. Acland, 84, who spells out his views on the opposite page, told the *Diary*: "Hunting is just not my thing. It never has been. I much prefer just riding over Exmoor with my grandchildren. My ancestors were exactly the same. But I think they would be turning in their graves over this decision."

Heavy reading

Fortified by pots of Earl Grey. And packets of throat lozenges, parishioners to the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, have been straining their vocal cords to read the Bible aloud from cover to cover. The marathon, all the way from Genesis to Revela-

tions, took 73 hours, 12 minutes and has raised money for a local hospital and repairs to their church's wiring.

"The readers were organised into 15-minute slots, day and night, over four days," says Evelyn Fisher, one of the parishioners. "We had a continuous refreshment stall with tea and sweets."

Sadly, the achievement will not be featured in *The Guinness Book of Records*. "We have been offered various claims over the years," says the compilers, "but we think it might be distasteful to our readers if we printed a record. We find it difficult to see the Bible as a speed-reading exercise." Amen to that.

Pigs might swim

After John Gummer's diatribe against European encroachments on the traditional British banger, it emerges that an even more insidious threat is taking shape in Australia, where boffins have developed an "environmentally friendly" sausage made from seaweed. A prototype has been developed by researchers at Monash University, and is declared by Guy Werner, a researcher there, to be "the forerunner of a green revolution in Australian eating habits".

Seaweed has become something of a cult throughout the country. The university has developed seaweed crisps, and fashionable restaurants are serving seaweed in everything from soups to salads. Werner says: "Seaweeds are low in fat, high in vitamins and fibre. Living as they do in a veritable soup of minerals — the sea — they are high in the minerals necessary for health."



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GERMAN INTERESTS

A year after the Berlin Wall was opened, Germany's weight in the European balance of power is palpably greater than at any time since 1945. The reunited country's size and wealth inspire respect. The German achievement is qualitative as well as quantitative. A federal constitution of proven stability and efficacy, besides a political and economic elite of high calibre, have contributed to a revived impression across Europe of effortless German superiority. In Helmut Kohl, the Germans possess — and are certain to re-elect next month — the most successful, if not the most profound, European politician of his generation. What are the implications?

German foreign policy has long been remarkably consistent. Since the same man, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, has been foreign minister for the past 16 years under both ruling parties, that consistency is not surprising. Even if Herr Genscher were to retire after the election, his successor may be expected to continue in the master's footsteps. In public, his policy has blended a cold ideological agnosticism with woolly federalism. German national interests are vigorously asserted when they matter — notably over agriculture — but well away from the gaze of his British admirers.

Helmut Kohl is a more straightforward German patriot, though coalition politics have inhibited him from giving free rein to his fondness for the Fatherland ideal. But as his mastery of both *Deutschlandpolitik* and *Ostpolitik* has grown over the past year, so the tone of German foreign policy has become less ingratiating and more peremptory. Especially since what German diplomats call "the miracle of the Caucasus" — last summer's deal with President Gorbachev, which cleared the way for a reunited Germany to belong to Nato — Herr Kohl's negotiating manner has even bordered on the insufferable.

Herr Kohl began to realise, probably in early 1988, that Mr Gorbachev was not a communist version of Joseph Goebbels. After his old rival, Franz-Josef Strauss, returned from Moscow with hints that Mr Gorbachev might

no longer be committed to the Honecker régime, the chancellor saw he should sit down with the bear. By the following winter, he too was in Moscow, with only Mrs Thatcher expressing concern about concessions he might make in return for Soviet promises.

Herr Kohl saw off her challenge in the spring of 1989, when President Bush failed to insist on the modernisation of Lance missiles — Mrs Thatcher's test of German loyalty. With a Soviet promise of self-determination for the German nation in his pocket, Herr Kohl was ready for the coming upheaval in central Europe. His ten point plan for reunification, produced within days of November 9, left his countrymen cheering and his allies floundering.

He has carried on thus ever since: over the border dispute with Poland, which he handled, with considerable insensitivity, over first German and now European monetary union; over farm prices and the Gatt round; this week over European policy towards Iraq. Herr Kohl is conducting his foreign policy not as Europe sees fit, but as he sees fit. The tradition is not so much that of Adenauer (who deferred to Washington and Paris) as of Stresemann or the later Bismarck. Like them, he pursues a cautious but determined strategy, designed to forge a new balance of power after the demise of the old.

Herr Kohl's long-term aim now seems disturbingly vast: a European state fashioned on the model of the Federal Republic. His insistence that German interests should not be overridden in a future European federation is legitimate nationalism, a nationalism he shares with Mrs Thatcher. His ill-disguised opinion that Europe's foreign policy should be synonymous with Germany's — from admitting Eastern Europe to the Community to sending Willy Brandt to Baghdad — is presumptuous. As long as Herr Kohl continues to speak the language of the federalist 1950s, while engaging in the nationalist power politics of the 1990s, he cannot be surprised to be treated by other Europeans with coolness.

MERGING SATELLITES

The merger of Sky Television (whose parent company also owns *The Times*) and British Satellite Broadcasting raises important questions of public policy. Broadcasting naturally stirs the political juices and the merger is already controversial. Owners of *The Times*, both now and previously under the Thomson family, have long had an interest in other media, including television. Even the Astor family, owners before the Thomsons, considered a television shareholding. Television profits helped Lord Thomson to maintain *The Times*. Most quality newspapers have at some time been subsidised from other business.

Such cross-ownership has been beneficial. Readers' choice of newspapers, and thus of a range of opinion, would be curtailed without it. Nor is there anything inherently wrong in vertical or horizontal diversification, as between the press, publishing and broadcasting. The only proviso is that such integration should not so impede competition as to operate against the public interest.

The merger of Sky and BSB has certainly run into criticism on this score. Through the BSB satellite franchise, Mr Murdoch, an American citizen, now has 50 per cent of a British satellite service. The law says a non-EC national cannot control such a service. He also now has more than 20 per cent of a British television franchise (that is, the former BSB licence). In the past, the government has outlawed so large a holding by a newspaper proprietor, largely to avoid regional media monopolies. Ministers have yet to judge whether this rule will be retained, in the regulations to be introduced under its new broadcasting law.

These difficulties could be circumvented by the new merged company abandoning the old BSB franchise, with its satellite, squarials and D-MAC system, and concentrating offshore on Astra. That would evade the letter, if not the spirit, of the current regulatory regime. But there is no point in the regulators forcing such circumvention as long as the merger is not against the public interest. Is it?

REGENT STREET WISDOM

This year Christmas decorations appeared in London's Regent Street in the last week of October — still in British Summer Time. Nothing better illustrates the plight of West End retailing than the fact that "Christmas" now lasts more than two months and is celebrated in a style more appropriate to Blackpool's Golden Mile. While the shopping streets of New York, Paris and Stockholm celebrate the season with a stylish fling of white lights, Regent Street chooses crude plastic cartoons, slung across the street with no respect for architecture or aesthetics.

With the support of Westminster Council, the street's landlords, the Crown Estate, are pushing ahead with proposals for a £4 million upgrading of Regent Street's "furniture". Lamp standards, litter bins, railings and bollards are all to be redesigned to accord with the Edwardian architecture. Despite the customary howl of abuse that greets every plan for urban improvement, this attempt is worthwhile. The ugliness that blights so many London streets lies not just in poor upkeep but in deplorable furniture design.

Regent Street, the very heart of the capital's shopping industry, has been spoiled by municipal clutter intended to speed the traffic, as well as by insensitive shop fronts and signs. The great houses of Austin Reed, Liberty, Peter Robinson and Aquascutum are now jostled by high street multiples blaring their wares with standardised corporate design. The proposed street furniture is at least in keeping with the flamboyant style of the facades.

If individual items are unsuitable, that does not invalidate the general principle of improving the environment in harmony with the character of the street, rather than in harmony with the taste, or lack of it, of municipal supplies de-

partments. The essence of Regent Street is the presence of big West End stores. To retain their appeal to Londoners and visitors, they need help from good planning. The department store offers a service that complements the smaller specialist shops of Soho, Covent Garden and Knightsbridge. But such shops will thrive only if they can keep the street outside their front doors clean and tidy, their surroundings attractive and public transport efficient.

The key to this improvement, in the Regent Street of tomorrow as in many European streets today, is ruthless traffic control. Traffic is noisy, dirty and restricts pedestrian freedom to roam. Its relatively free movement through the heart of the West End may help office commuters and prosperous country visitors. It is no help to shopkeepers. Even Bond Street, long attached to the idea that its plutocratic customers should not have to leave their Rolls-Royces some distance away, has suffered as a result. Space for people to move about on foot is now recognised as a magnet for shoppers — witness the piazza at Covent Garden or pedestrianised South Molton Street and Leicester Square.

Regent Street would not be itself without a few red buses chugging down its length. That apart, nothing would do more to enhance the street's daytime appeal than pedestrianisation. Regent Street may never recapture the small-scale stucco charm of Nash's Quadrant, but its Victorian and Edwardian buildings still form a magnificent promenade. To replace its miserable furniture, to ban standardised shopfronts, to clear it of traffic and plant it with trees would recreate this great avenue as one of the noblest in Europe.

Hunting on National Trust land

From Sir Richard Acland

Sir, Last Saturday, at the National Trust's AGM, a group whom I describe as the "idealists" won a narrow majority to veto the hunting of deer on Trust property (reports, November 5). They are thus described because their argument reduces to seven words: "Hunting causes pain to deer: abolish it!"

Following the previous five heads of my family, who seldom, if ever, hunted, I have always supported the argument of those I describe as "realists": "Those who would abolish the hunt will turn more than 90 per cent of Exmoor farmers from the warm friends into the deadly enemies of the deer, and thus enormously increase the pain they suffer."

From time to time farmers, who love deer, report the presence of an injured animal in their woods. Fifty-seven times in the latest available year the hunts have sent out a few hounds to track down these animals and have them put out of pain by bullet. Many had gangrenous wounds filled with maggots, their bellies gnawed by rats and their eyes pecked by jackdaws. In this one way hunting saves deer more pain than it causes.

Last summer I suggested to principal officers of the Trust that they use their considerable resources to convey this realism to their members. But they preferred to keep a low profile, relying on a legalistic argument about it being for Parliament, not for the Trust, to abolish hunting on Trust land. As if there were any prospect of keeping heat out of the idealists' argument!

I suggest to the Trust Council that they now give notice of a motion for the AGM of 1991 to rescind what was carried last week, and that they then support it by an adequate campaign based on

the realists' case. If they refuse, an influential group of independent NT members might take up the work. Despite old age, I would offer my services.

The motion, so narrowly carried, insists that notwithstanding wishes expressed by donors, hunting be prohibited on Trust land designated as a site of special scientific interest. If the Council of the Trust now feels morally bound to enforce this veto, I, as a donor, shall seek legal advice on the possibility of preventing them. What would happen to donations to the Trust in the 21st century if donors' expressed wishes could be overruled by a tiny percentage of the Trust's voting membership?

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD ACLAND,
College, Broadclyst,
Exeter, Devon,
November 5.

From Earl Peel

Sir, Your leading article, "Hunting hypocrisy" (November 5), quite rightly draws attention to the fact that game birds, and the interference of man, would possibly become extinct.

I venture to suggest that, without the management of habitats for game and the selective control of an ever-increasing number of opportunistic predators, not only would game birds decline, but a wealth of other species as well. However, to refer to the specific breeding of grouse is misleading, for grouse are not released, but are bred entirely from wild stock, thus demanding an even greater reliance on sound management.

Yours faithfully,
PEEL (Chairman,
Game Conservancy research
planning committee),
Gunnerside Estate Office,
Gunnerside,
Richmond, North Yorkshire.

Insurance medicals

From the Chief Executive of the Association of British Insurers

Sir, Dr Smith (October 26) suggests that people having a medical examination in connection with a life insurance proposal should be given the results. There are a number of reasons why this would not be appropriate.

The examining doctor is asked not to pass on the results because he is not in possession of complete information relevant to underwriting the proposal. For example, certain medical tests may be undertaken separately and there may be aspects of past medical history which do not emerge from the examination.

For insurance companies themselves to provide medical results would come between the doctor and patient relationship which is so important. In practice, if an

insurance medical reveals a serious condition of which the individual may not have been aware, either the examining doctor will suggest that the patient sees his own family doctor or the chief medical officer of the insurance company will do so, having first obtained written permission from the life-assured to pass the examination result to the family doctor.

Insurance companies are not denying the life assured details of examinations, but where appropriate are directing this sensitive information to the doctor responsible for the health care of the patient.

Yours faithfully,
M. A. JONES, Chief Executive,
Association of British Insurers,
Alderman House,
10-15 Queen Street, EC4,
October 29.

Clergy assessment

From the Reverend Father M. H. Bryant

Sir, The income and housing of the clergy of the established Church has for centuries been subject to a system of which Colonel Horden, as a churchwarden (October 25), is obviously aware. The system replaced the more purely evangelical one which he seems to favour. If he wishes to see the restoration of the riskier approach, would he also be prepared to accept its corollaries?

These would include an acceptance by the laity of an obligation to support their priests, and of a celibate clergy. There is little evidence to support the view that such changes would be acceptable to more than a minority.

The average Anglican layperson envisages a quite different relationship with the clergy, which is evidenced by Colonel Horden's suggestion that the laity should have the power to extend a priest's working life, or to curtail it, as they see fit.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BRYANT,
St Alban's Vicarage,
Sashoak Street,
Birmingham 12.

Diary topics

From Mr Kenneth Rose

Sir, Charles Wintour writes, in his survey of newspaper columnists (October 31), "I exclude Kenneth Rose as a social diarist", i.e., because that is what he considers me to be. Although I shall bear my exclusion with forbore, I must correct Mr Wintour's misleading description of the "Albany" column. I have written continuously in *The Sunday Telegraph* since 1961.

My two most recent columns, no different in range of subject from the 1,400 or so that preceded them, embrace the following 11 topics:

• Sir William Heseltine's plans on retiring from Buckingham Palace to his native Australia; Lord Zuckerman's solution to the identity of the Piltdown Man forger; Nicholas Ridley's views on country houses; the planning of an

avenue of 90 chestnuts in Kent to mark the Queen Mother's birthday; a French widow's law case against France's Minister of Culture for the return of her pictures from the Louvre; a joke by Mrs John Major on the pressures of ministerial life; Queen Mary's last days; the establishment of a Chancellor's Court at Oxford; the Duke of Kent's recent visit to the Falklands; Sir Harold Acton's reminiscences of Florence; Sir John Colville's part in unmasking John Cairncross as the "Fifth Man".

That is not what most people would understand by a social diary.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH ROSE,
The Sunday Telegraph,
Peterborough Court
at South Quay,
181 Marsh Wall, E14,
November 1.

Car deliveries

From Mr M. L. Keefer

Sir, In response to Mr David Buck (October 23) the car manufacturer's "ex-works" delivery charge reflects the average cost of delivery from one of the manufacturer's plants to its supplying dealers, not to the customer's address. Some dealers may make a small charge for this service, depending on distance. In Mr Buck's case around £30 would not be unusual.

Some manufacturers publish the delivery charge in their official price lists and dealers adhere to this rigidly, but most do not and

this does leave room for profiteering by dealers. Mr Buck's charge of £38.30 plus VAT certainly seems excessive although other "on the road" charges are made, typically £20 for number plates and £100 for 12 months' road fund licence.

It may seem unfair if you buy a new car from a dealer next door to the plant and pay the same charge as if the car had been delivered from, say, the manufacturer's Spanish, German, or Japanese plant, but no fairer system has yet been devised. On the other hand it is difficult to think of any other consumer product where you are charged for the cost of delivering the goods to the supplier.

Elusive shadow of the 'Fifth Man'

From Mr Nigel West

Sir, Lord Armstrong of Ilminster (November 2) seems to prefer the uncorroborated testimony of a single KGB lieutenant-colonel to the 18 British intelligence personnel who gave evidence during the Fluency committee's enquiries, set up in 1964 to investigate Soviet penetration of the Security Service, that there was evidence of penetration until 1963.

It may well be that Oleg Gordievsky is correct but his "revelations" to date do not inspire much confidence. The book he co-authored recently contains almost no new information, not a single unpublished cryptonym, but much material that is demonstrably false.

Take, for example, his assertion that "Grigori Kuchuk" was a KGB defector (p. 404, 708). In fact no such person ever existed. Similarly, much of what Gordievsky has to say about Anthony Blunt is either contradictory or patently untrue. As for his suggestion that Leo Long's Soviet codename was ELLI, the chronology cited by Gordievsky is entirely wrong.

Contrary to Lord Armstrong's recollection, Cairncross's status as a member of the KGB's Ring-of-Five is not "new to many". In *Molehunt*, published in 1987, I wrote: "Burgess, Maclean, Philby and Cairncross had all been members of the group known as the Ring-of-Five" (p. 37).

There is a long tradition of Soviet intelligence defectors deliberately embroidering their "meal-ticket" to exaggerate their status. Gordievsky has already been caught out claiming to have been "the most senior Soviet intelligence officer ever to have worked for the West" (*Time* magazine) and to have been the KGB's top man in London. In fact he was neither.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL WEST,
310 Fulham Road, SW10,
November 4.

From Mr James Rusbridger

Sir, As Lord Armstrong knows the truth can sometimes be an economical commodity and, therefore, before he accepts Mr Gordievsky's claims about Mr Cairncross he should consider what evidence exists to substantiate them.

When Mr Gordievsky's allegations about the "Fifth Man" were first peddled to the media, it was claimed they were based on his "unprecedented access" to KGB archives, a statement which the

Russian government said was completely untrue.

However, at his press conference on October 17, Mr Gordievsky admitted that he had never seen Mr Cairncross's KGB file. As a result, on October 24, his publishers issued a statement that Mr Gordievsky had only discussed Mr Cairncross's career with three KGB colleagues, and they had agreed he had supplied the KGB with many documents.

So far, Mr Gordievsky has not produced a shred of archival evidence to back up any of his claims and, until this is forthcoming, I think one should treat them with caution.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES RUSBRIDGER,
Tremorebridge, Lanivet,
Bodmin, Cornwall,
November 2.

From Mr Chapman Pincher

Sir, I am grateful to Lord Armstrong for confirming that the recent "revelations" by Oleg Gordievsky and Christopher Andrew about John Cairncross are ancient recorded history. However, he appears to support their specious argument — John Cairncross was the "Fifth Man", therefore Sir Roger Hollis could not have been and so could not have been a Soviet agent.

The evidence against Hollis, who could never have belonged to the Cambridge Ring, cannot be attributed to Cairncross or, convincingly, to anyone else and still stands. Gordievsky offers no acceptable explanation of it and his negative statements about Hollis, based on his alleged wide access to the most secret KGB archives, are unimpressive. I do not believe that the ultra-cautious KGB would choose such a young officer to write a secret history of the service and then post him abroad where he could defect and did.

Nor is it credible, as Gordievsky claims, that the highly professional KGB started to call the Cambridge Ring "The Magnificent Five" ten years after they had all ceased to be active because a film called *The Magnificent Seven* had been shown in Moscow. "The Magnificent Five" sounds like a promotion gimmick and one is not surprised to hear that it is the title of the next Andrew-Gordievsky book.

Yours faithfully,
CHAPMAN PINCHER,
Church House, 16 Church Street,
Kintbury,
Newbury, Berkshire,
November 2.

EC priorities

From Mr Adam Breeze

Sir, I note that EC Commissioners are to step up the pressure on the group of 24 industrialised nations (G24) to help establish an emergency "rescue fund" for Eastern Europe (*Business News*, October 22).

This is yet another example of the Commission's seemingly obsessive love for new schemes. If the EC believes that extra funds are necessary, then they should be channelled through the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (BERD), with its brief to assist the creation of market economies and its emphasis on private-sector projects, thereby avoiding needless Brussels bureaucracy and the inevitable extra administrative costs of setting up a new fund.

Perhaps there would be less

need to lobby for extra money if the EC reconsidered its budgetary priorities. The Community currently spends £10 billion annually through the common agricultural policy on preventing the market to function freely; ironically, this is the same amount which the BERD was given to build free markets in the East.

The CAP must be abolished, along with all quotas and tariff controls, for these impediments to free trade only accentuate the plight of the new democracies by denying equal access to Western markets.

Yours faithfully,
ADAM BREEZE
(Projects Director),
International Freedom
Foundation,
Suite 500, Chesham House,
150 Regent Street, W1,
October 22.

Turning a phrase

From Mr Peter H. Nancarrow

Sir, "Chilled to the marrow" may strike deeper than Dr Paterson's "to the bone" (October 18), but for sheer graphic picturesqueness the Chinese metaphor for extreme dampness takes some beating. It translates as "like a chicken which has fallen in the soup".

Yours faithfully,
PETER H. NANCARROW,
1 Oakington Road,
Girton, Cambridge.

From the Reverend Jay Lennard

Sir, Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:14). What does that mean to Christians who will never see a sheep? So in Taiwan their Bible translation reads: "I am the goose-keeper". In linguistics, relevance is all.

Yours etc.,
JAY LENNARD,
36 Hugh Street,
Falkirk, Stirlingshire.

From Mr Peter A. Huddock

Sir, My maternal grandmother (1847-1937), when there was a sudden disconcerting lapse in the conversation, used to say: "Lieutenant gone to Heaven". Presumably this reflected mid-Victorian opinion as to the rarity of such a contingency.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
PETER A. HADDOCK,
22 King Edmund Court,
Gillingham, Dorset.

In a market where competition is so fierce, which manufacturer is going to be bold enough to raise his prices to incorporate the charge in the vehicle cost?

In answer to Mr Buck's specific point, the manufacturer's delivery charge is based upon charges incurred from the independent car transporter companies whose costs, and therefore prices, must to some degree be based on wage settlements to their drivers.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN KEEFER (Director),
Vehicle Contracts (UK) Limited,
5 Grove Place, Bedford,
October 23.

Public safety

From the Director General of the Engineering Council

Sir, Dr J. R. Waldram (October 27) makes some interesting observations in respect of recent disasters and responsibility. Although it is not within the remit of the Engineering Council to adjudicate on specific disasters we have felt the need to investigate the general area of such happenings and assist in the avoidance of repetition. We have recently set up a working party composed of leading industrialists, senior academics and representatives of the relevant agencies to look at the whole area of recognition, assessment and analysis of risk.

It is working towards the drawing-up of a code of practice to assist engineers, employers, professional institutions and those who provide education and training to achieve greater public safety.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS E. FILER,
Director General,
The Engineering Council,
10 Maltravers Street, WC2,
October 30.

Desserts and diet

From Mrs Eileen Blacklock

Sir, Have not restaurateurs heard of the efforts to reduce the cholesterol levels in the national diet? The cream-laden desserts of yesterday are still very much in evidence today and often there is not one alternative on the menu. Can they not offer fresh fruits, sorbets and other low-cholesterol sweets? When dining out people on low-cholesterol diets often have to forgo the pleasure of a pudding.

Yours faithfully,
EILEEN BLACKLOCK,
7 Osprey Close,
Hove, East Sussex,
October 29.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Sex and the singular store

Underwear is lacy, flirty and sexy again, says Marks & Spencer. And it should know, says Liz Smith

The close-fitting clothes and short, straight skirts in fashion today would seem to demand the sleek base of a stretchy bodysuit or smooth-line bra and knickers. So who could have predicted the demand for the lacy, sexy-looking styles that women are buying today? Marks & Spencer, of course.

The store chain where one woman in three in Britain buys her underwear understands better than most the need for more luxurious body-shapers to wear underneath a short, shapely suit. M&S can measure the success of flirty styles in tons of lace and millions of miles of soft Jacquard satin. The company has watched as customers switched from basic bras (women buy 1.6 each a year) and "three-to-a-pack" knickers (five pairs a year) to more glamorous underwear smothered in lace and trimmed with pearls and ribbon.

Forget "natural" bras; according to M&S, female customers today want some engineering to shape, uplift and emphasise curves. Women have tired of the severely sporty, sexual lines of the Eighties and feel free to indulge again in underwear that is flirty and fun.

M&S sells 70 million pieces of underwear a year (excluding nightwear). Laurie Oppenheim, the merchandise manager for M&S lingerie, therefore speaks with some authority when he describes the world's favourite bra. "Underwired, in all-over stretch 'Fern' lace, £7.99," he says. "It went into the stores in August and instantly went to number one in all our stores, whether in Madrid, Barnsley or Toronto. That probably means it is the best-selling bra in the world."

M&S has observed that bosoms are getting bigger, too. Today the average size bra is a 36C cup, compared with the 34B of five years ago. This statistic should not be taken to suggest that silicone breast implants are common practice on the National Health Service. "Women may be bustier, but they are also more careful than before to buy the right



Sinners from St Michael: lacy bra and briefs from the best-selling Pearls range (left), and softly scalloped satin camisole and French knickers



size bra," Mr Oppenheim says.

When he describes the success of Pearls, his department's latest line in underwear, Mr Oppenheim can hardly conceal his excitement. "It is going a riot," he says. Pearls, which made its debut in September and is now the top-selling line in all branches, includes bras (from £7.99) and briefs (£4.50), camisoles (£9.99), slips (£10.99) and French knickers (£7.99) in satin Jacquard lavishly trimmed with lace.

The way he tells it, the year-long, £21 million development of Pearls is a racy

story unfolding from a fragment of lace spotted in Calais to an international saga involving 240 looms and four dye works in Japan creating 1.6 million yards of Jacquard satin, and lace-makers in Nottingham and Calais weaving 2,750 miles of lace.

The outline for Pearls, and every other autumn 1990 line, was hammered out between buyers in the three lingerie departments at a meeting in the M&S headquarters in Baker Street in June 1989.

"Women obviously wanted more glamour," Mr Oppenheim explains. "We noted the move away from man-made

nylon to more luxurious fabrics like polyester satin, fine cotton and stretchy Lycra and lace.

"We linked the trend for prettier detailing to fashion changes in underwear. Gaudier's fondness for revealing underwear has definitely influenced the market. Women like to wear wrapover blouses that reveal something pretty underneath, so we supply something pretty."

Suppliers were instructed accordingly, and the lifecycle of the Pearls range began. Rosemary Hancock, the fashion director of Sheers, a division of Courtaulds and a

major supplier of underwear to M&S, spotted a fragment of Leavers lace in a factory in Calais that fitted the brief she had just been set by M&S buyers.

A sample length of polyester Jacquard satin was woven in Japan, using the lace as the idea for its all-over pattern. Mr Oppenheim and his team were enthusiastic. Eight different types of lace were developed from the original sample, including stretch lace for straps and other forms for edging and to inset as decoration.

The underwear technology department then had to "pull

every garment apart" to check quality. Co-ordinating the production of 15 different pieces of underwear in matching fabric and lace is always tricky. A bra, constructed to 25 different sizes and with around 15 component pieces, takes longer to develop than a camisole that involves only a bit of stitching.

Colours for the Pearls range were limited to cream and black, plus ruby as the additional "sexy" shade for autumn to be delivered to 160 stores. And the pearl stitched to the centre of a bra or pair of bikini briefs provided the name for the line.

WHAT does Molly Parkin know about design? And what light can Drummie of Aswad, the pop group, Michael Heath, the cartoonist, and television presenters Paul Morley, Sebastian Scott and Magenta de Vine throw on the matter?

The answer to this and a host of other questions about design will be revealed later this month when Eye 2 Eye, a new quiz show on the subject, is launched on Channel 4.

The five-part series is devised and co-produced by David Davies Associates, the design consultants and Covent Garden clothes and furnishing retailers, whose work includes packaging, corporate identity and interior design for such names as British Airways, Boots, and Marks & Spencer.

Although the company has produced corporate videos, Eye 2 Eye is its first move into television. The show also represents one of television's first attempts to cover design in a prime-time slot.

As a rule, television has tended either to fight shy of the subject altogether or to cover it in a specialised way, as in the BBC's Design Awards. Mr Davies argues that this approach is lazy, backward-looking and ultimately damaging to the design industry. "The Design Awards were depressing," he says. "They were so very in-house, made by the design industry for the design industry. Programmes like that reinforce most people's idea of design as elitist and inaccessible, rather than something that touches their everyday lives."

Like Mr Davies, Waldemar Januszczak, Channel 4's commissioning editor on the arts, has felt for some time the need for a design programme that eschewed the traditional highfalutin approach in favour of something accessible and popular. "This quiz-based format seemed to me a way of getting people interested in design without preaching at them," Mr Januszczak says.

In an effort not to intimidate the uninitiated, Eye 2 Eye will mix specialist panelists—including designers such as Philippe Starck, Nigel Coates and Eva Jiricova—with celebrities and television personalities. They will be asked questions on topics such as design movements and cultural trends, and invited to identify various kinds of packaging and to pontificate on the design properties of anything from a training shoe to a fountain pen.

For Mr Davies, Eye 2 Eye offers a welcome opportunity for his company to move away from its core business into one of today's few growth industries. The UK design industry and related fields are in the doldrums, making it difficult for consultancies to expand in obvious directions such as conferences and ex-

hibitions. But the boom in broadcasting makes it a relatively safe area for a new venture. Mr Davies has plans to capitalise on Eye 2 Eye with a number of other projects, including a possible series on homes and interiors.

By the same token, Eye 2 Eye seems tailor-made for Channel 4's upmarket yet accessible programming policy. An added bonus is that it will cost very little to make. An average 30-minute quiz or game show can be produced for between £7,000 and £8,000. Even the best-looking examples such as Blind Date cost at most £20,000 per half hour. So compared with drama, which costs around 20 times as much, quiz shows—which occupy 30 hours of UK airtime each week—are a cheap way of filling schedules. They also attract predictable, and sizeable, audiences.

Yet the quiz show format in itself does not guarantee suc-



Seeing Eye 2 Eye: David Davies

'It may not register audiences on the Blind Date scale... but it will be fun'

cess. William Stewart, an independent producer and quiz show expert who was responsible for bringing Family Fortunes and The Price Is Right to Central TV, and whose company, Regent Production, provides Channel 4 with Fifteen-to-One, claims that although quiz shows may look simple to produce, they are hard to get absolutely right.

What is Mr Stewart's prognosis for Eye 2 Eye? "To be honest, it sounds like an absolute bore, a complete switch-off," he says.

"It may be unlikely to register audiences on the Blind Date scale," Mr Januszczak retorts, "but I think people will find the programme an amusing and informative way of looking at everyday objects they take for granted, and analysing the influence design has on their lives. And judged against the dry, dull design programming we have been used to, it will be a damn sight more interesting and a good deal more fun."

LISA O'KELLY

Eye 2 Eye will be on Channel 4 at 8pm on Thursdays, from November 29.

Cut a dash and play by ear

With the help of a letter opener, you could play a tune on your jewellery

"MOLTOGGLE" is the word Annie Sherburne coined to describe the wearable musical instrument jewellery she is selling at a Crafts Council-backed one-person show in London this month.

These unconventional pieces, in painted wood, were created in conjunction with Brian Stapleton, who specialises in making Aeolian harps and ukeleles. Stung over the shoulder, they look like decorative ethnic necklaces. Tuned up, they play like tiny four-stringed guitars.

Moltogles are pleasing enough to hang as sculptures, yet even the least lyrical will

be tempted to pluck them. Who will buy a Moltoogle? "It's inevitable that they will be collectors' pieces because of their price—about £1,000 each," says Ms Sherburne, who works from a studio in Rotherhithe, southeast London. "But we are hoping to get a group of alternative musicians together to play the seven instruments, which are all different. We've found you can play them rather well using a letter opener as a bow."

Ms Sherburne began creating jewellery when she was 14. She described her brooches, necklaces and earrings as "portable art". She did not train formally in jewellery-making, although an embroidery course at Goldsmiths College sparked her appetite for felt-making and decorative knitting. Spotted by Jean Muir shortly after leaving college, she produced two jewellery ranges a year for the company for eight years, also coming up with her own eccentric annual collection.

Unusual jewellery in her show includes Indian-inspired animal and plant-shaped brooches and colourful interpretations of jazz and dance. Some pieces have "homes" into which they slot for wall displays when not being worn. "I like the idea of being painterly while still giving my pieces a practical application," she says. Making hand-tufted wool rugs is her newest enthusiasm. Like Ms Sherburne's jewellery, the rugs are richly coloured and tactile. So far she has tufted a huge fish, starfish, lizard with daffodil, a shield and a violin.

NICOLE SWENGLEY

Annie Sherburne's jewellery and textiles show runs to November 25 at the Crafts Council shop, Victoria & Albert Museum, South Kensington, London SW7.

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"Portable art": Annie Sherburne and one of her Moltoogle

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ARTS

BRIEFING

Not the real thing

NEXT Sunday's one-off performance of the National Theatre's hit musical, *Guys and Dolls*, now looks as if it will not be quite the reunion of original talent for which everyone was hoping. The evening honours the production's late star Ian Charleson, who died in January of Aids. But of Charleson's three co-stars at the musical's 1982 opening, only Julia McKenzie will be on hand to reprise her award-winning performance as the adonoid Miss Adelaide. Bernard Cribbins fills in for Bob Hoskins, who is filming in France, and Belinda Sinclair inherits Sister Sarah's shoes, first played in this production by Julie Covington.

Ballet high

LONDON City Ballet has won an endowment award from Texas for "artistic excellence". Worth £150,000 over the first two years, the endowment will help fund a full-time ballet mistress to improve the dancers' technique, and will also cover the cost of a lighting designer. Meanwhile, Harold King's independent ballet company is preparing for its first-ever Christmas season at Sadler's Wells with a new staging of *Cinderella*, choreographed by William Morgan, Scottish-born director of Bangkok Dance Theatre.

Maggie out

WHEN the star finishes, so does the show. Or so will be the case with the Broadway production of *Letice and Lovage* which has announced that it will close December 23, when Maggie Smith, its Tony Award-winning leading lady, completes her nine-month contract. The timing in a way could not be worse, since it deprives the producers of income from the Christmas/New Year week, always the busiest of the year on Broadway. In addition, *Letice* has been the unquestionable straight play smash of this past season and few forthcoming shows look likely to repeat its success.

Last chance

ENGLISH National Opera's hugely enjoyable *Magie Flute* is into its third conductor this run: James Holmes will see the production out for this season on Thursday. The honours are evenly divided between Nicholas Hynes's inventive staging and Jeremy Sams' witty translation. The principals for the last performance at the Coliseum (071-336 3161) include Susan Bullock as Pamina, Neill Archer as Tamino, Nan Christie as the Queen of Night, Lesley Garrett as Papagena and Andrew Shore, whose Papagena should not be missed.

GALLERIES



David Alfaro Siqueiros's sinister self-portrait: one of the examples of Mexican Surrealism in Mexico: *Splendors of Thirty Centuries*

High, low and Mexico

John Russell Taylor finds New Yorkers examining their own continent's heritage

IN New York the impression is often that art curators hunt in packs. There is nearly always a flavour of the month. This autumn, two ideas dominate: Mexican art, and the reassessment of neglected American artists of the last 100 years. Then there is the squabble of the season, without which New York art would not be complete. This time it is the ambitious Museum of Modern Art super-show *High and Low*, curated by Kirk Varnedoe, the museum's newish director of the department of painting and sculpture, in collaboration with Adam Gopnik, art critic of *The New Yorker*.

Charles Brenner has already outlined the nature of the rumour (Arts Page, October 15). The idea is to bring together high art of the 20th century with examples of popular culture, and to show how visually they have been interrelated. A perfectly reasonable, academic objective, carried out in a perfectly reasonable, academic way. The show is slightly misleading, in that it is presented as though it is following one clear line of development, when in fact it is quite deconstructed. But it is certainly not the barbarians storming the citadel: the triumph of vulgarity within the sacred Moma precincts.

In fact it is devoted almost exclusively to high art, of the kinds which have been one way or another connected with the popular and pious: from Picasso's use of bits of newspaper in his Cubist collages to Roy Lichtenstein's appropriation of frames from the

strip cartoons of his day. The show is entertaining and sometimes revealing (though the catalogue is more so), but the controversy is decidedly cooked up.

The centre of the Mexican cultural festival is the mammoth show at the Metropolitan Museum, *Splendors of Thirty Centuries*, which gallops gallantly through the story from earliest prehistory right up to Tamayo who, in his nineties, is concurrently having a show of recent work at Marlborough New York. The other shows, such as *Women in Mexico* (30 modern women artists) at the National Academy of Design; *Mexico: Painting 1950-1980* at the IBM Gallery; *Mexican Muralists and Prints* at the Spanish Institute and *Aspects of Contemporary Mexican Painting* at the American Society, fill in the corners without importantly modifying the overall impression. Which is just what everyone has always known: Mexico has been preoccupied with death for as long as there has been a Mexico to define, and Surrealism seems to have come naturally to Mexicans long before there was a Surrealism to define.

The Pre-Columbian works still look as though they came from another planet, the colonial days are generally dullish, and the early 20th-century revival has spawned more dreams than the reason of

non-Mexicans can possibly encompass.

Revival time brings round an unlikely assortment of half-forgotten Americans. The coincidence of Carl Melchers at the National Academy and Albert Pinkham Ryder at the Brooklyn Museum is entirely fortuitous, since both are in the midst of extended tours. Ryder (1847-1917) was the great eccentric among 19th-century American painters, developing his own visionary style in almost total disregard of what anyone else was doing, and adventuring technically to such a degree that many of his paintings are now in irreversible decline and the organisers of the exhibition observe with a certain ghastly pleasure that he will probably never be sensibly exhibited again. There is still enough to see of his classic moonlit scenes to establish his uniqueness, and the appended roomful of forgeries bears surprising testimony to his popularity at the time.

Melchers (1860-1932), whose show has now moved on to Detroit and Richmond, is only a generation later than Ryder, but in every way worlds apart. Very cosmopolitan, he trained in Düsseldorf, was working in Britain shortly before Gauguin, was friendly with many of the Hague School and with Puvis de Cha-

vannes, and lived as much in Europe as in the United States. The painting, as might be expected of someone so entirely disregarded since his death, is charming, eclectic and fairly slight. It is also formidably accomplished, and from the historical point of view is quite fascinating, like seeing the styles of a half-century passing across the canvas like clouds reflected in a limpid pool.

The Whitney Museum's big rediscovery, *Burgoyne Diller*, is in comparison a damp squib. He lived too much in the shadow of Moudrian not to be obliterated. Diller is a perfectly estimable artist: serious, tasteful and beautifully finished. But it is impossible not to be haunted by feelings of *deja-vu* while walking through the show. At the end of his life he comes up with a style of painting and construction which does not recall too much his master's voice. But it is minimal originality to sustain a lifetime's work.

High and Low Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street (212-748 9400) until Jan 15.
Mexico: Splendors of Thirty Centuries Metropolitan Museum of Art, Fifth Avenue at 82nd Street (212-8793300) until Jan 15.
Women in Mexico - Carl Melchers National Academy of Design, 1083 Fifth Avenue (212-3044800) until December 2.
Albert Pinkham Ryder Brooklyn Museum, 210 Eastern Parkway (718-6231000) until Jan 6.
Burgoyne Diller Whitney Museum of American Art, 945 Madison Avenue (212-5703676) until Nov 25.

THEATRE

Final royal flight

Terry Hands talks to Benedict Nightingale about *The Seagull*, his last RSC production

At a time when most people are thinking of Terry Hands as the Royal Shakespeare Company's embattled artistic director - and some as the man who has led his tribe into the Red Sea without first parting the waves - it is worth remembering that he is also a successful director of drama. In his 25 years with the company, his midwifery has produced Alan Howard's Henry V, Ian McKellen's Romeo, Derek Jacobi's Benedict, Ben Kingsley's Othello and scores of other fine performances in dozens of plays by the RSC's house-dramatist. In the process he has, he wryly concedes, won a name for "big-gun productions" large in scale and extravagant in visual invention.

With the company's ample theatres in Stratford and (until now) London making their inexorable demands, he has not often had the chance to test his prowess with smaller guns. But his final production as the company's chief is, as it happens, likely to be one of his most modest. The play he is opening in Stratford tonight is Chekhov's unshowy *The Seagull*, its habitat the informal Swan.

Apart from a touring production of his short *The Proposal*, Hands has never tackled Chekhov before. "But the moment I saw the Swan in 1986, I thought 'that's the place to do *The Seagull*,'" he recalls. "With Chekhov, you don't want *coups de théâtre*, you don't want big directorial concepts. You want to feel that a group of actors got together and themselves built the play. You want the improvised feel the Swan allows."

A thrust-stage with little decor obviously encourages an immediacy and directness not easy to achieve from behind a proscenium arch. But it is still a strange place to find so realistic a play. Hands has, however, long believed that Chekhov "is not a slice of life, not *cinema vérité*, but highly wrought, with highly poeticised speech". Moreover, an unconventional setting seems to him particularly suitable for a play he sees as a running debate about talent and creativity, theatrical style and theatrical content.

For him, its main symbol is not the seagull Konstantin shoots, but the tacky little theatre in which he stages the odd, original play he has written. "He's like an embryonic Peter Brook," says Hands. "No scenery, a new language, mighty themes. He keeps saying 'we have got to find fresh theatrical forms, we have got to get away from the high priests of theatre'. Yet at the end he decides that it's not a question of form at all, but of writing directly from the heart."

Konstantin's mother, the actress Arkadina, has something to say on the subject, as has prac-

tically every other character in *The Seagull*. In their conflicting views, Hands sees parallels to the argument currently going on in Britain about the value of the arts. But his love of the play is personal too. "As it's my last RSC production," he says, "I have a particular interest in a piece that speculates about the nature of those of us who work in the theatre."

That is not, of course, the play's only theme. For Hands, it is also a kind of whodunnit, which ends by asking the audience to apportion the blame for Konstantin's last-minute suicide. Then again, like so many of Chekhov's works, it is about yearning and disappointment, the desire for fulfilment and



Hands: "Chekhov is not a slice of life, but highly wrought"

love and the difficulty of achieving them. Hands's view of *The Seagull* as a play centrally concerned with play-making itself is open to dispute, but few will argue when he describes its author as "the greatest poet of failure".

Hands is unsure of his precise plans after he leaves the RSC next year. But he would like to freelance as a director for a bit, then get involved in some capacity with a theatre company, possibly in France, Germany or America. Whatever happens, the importance to him of *The Seagull* is clearly considerable. It has, he says, taken him back to his days as founder of the Everyman, Liverpool, 30 years ago.

On that rough stage, there could be little scenic pretension. It was a place for emotional simplicity, not technological display, for actors not as all-powerful directors. "That's the sort of theatre I've come to believe in. That's where I can feel myself again. That's where whatever I do in the future will be growing from."

© The Seagull opens at the Swan, Stratford (01924 245623) tonight

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TOMORROW

Rupert Smith on why the future of fringe theatre may be in the hands of big business, and Joseph Connolly asks whether we should be taking Beatrix Potter seriously

JAZZ

Free-range expansion of note

THE press releases describe it as "London's ultimate venue". At the moment, five weeks from its revised launch date, the Jazz Café in Camden Town is slowly taking shape. The only music so far comes from the transistor of the builders who are swarming over the premises. Amidst the noise and the dust, the owner Jon Dabner is still confident of success. If things do not work out, he jokes that he can always book himself into the alcoholics' day centre along the road.

Humour is an important part of a jazz proprietor's survival kit. Ronnie Scott likes to regale audiences with the old chestnut about employing bouncers to throw people in. The joke conceals a bitter truth: running a jazz venue can be one of the fastest routes to the bankruptcy courts. Even a club as renowned as Scott's has come close to foundering in the past.

The Café has already run into problems. Structural complications and a dispute over an emergency exit have already led to postponements in the opening date. If there are no further setbacks, however, the club - a converted bank in Parkway, near Regent's Park - will open its doors to the public on December 11.

THE last time the baritone Thomas Allen appeared in this space, he was high on Butterworth's idle hill of summer. Now Virgin Classics has moved him on to Brahms's Mittel Europa for a disc of songs inspired by German and Austrian poets and the verse of Bohemia and Hungary. This is quite the best thing Allen has done for Virgin. The immediate world of each song is lived in to the full, as the voice rides the full distance of Brahms's melodies, basks in their harmonic warmth and tests their rhythmic muscle. Focus is sharper here than it was in his earlier Schumann disc. Whether in the confidences of "Wir wandeln", nicely poised between curiosity and secrecy, or in the exploitation of deep reservoirs of breath, Allen gives the attention. The programming, too, is sensible: continuity and contrast are shrewdly balanced.

Geoffrey Parsons supports

Clive Davis on the impending opening of London's largest jazz venue



Expanding: John Dabner in the original Jazz Café

The venue may well live up to all the publicity. With a capacity of 500 (including seating for 300) the Café will be the largest jazz venue in the capital. The interior - designed by the same people responsible for the Groucho Club - should attract the big spenders as well as the impecunious jazz buffs who make half a pint of mild last an entire evening.

Dabner has a promising

track record. A former teacher, he opened the original Jazz Café in Newington Green, Islington, in 1987. With different bands playing every night of the week, the vegetarian restaurant quickly became a fashionable watering-hole. Riding on the back of the so-called "jazz revival", its cramped premises have rarely been empty.

But it has never been the most comfortable of establish-

ments. In the narrow layout, many customers are unable even to catch a glimpse of the musicians. The acoustics also leave something to be desired. Dabner is aware of the shortcomings. "It's too small, and it's out of the way for most people. They read about it in the papers, and they come in expecting a proper auditorium, not this little shop front."

The Café is still open, but its future is uncertain. Following complaints about noise, Islington Council has banned live music at the premises from Monday to Thursday. Dabner is still considering whether to soldier on or to close up and concentrate on the Camden project.

He has sold his house to help raise capital for the club, and is still busy booking musicians. Unlike Ronnie Scott's, where one-week residencies are the rule, there will be a high turnover of performers. The first two nights will be given over to the American saxophonist David Murray, to be followed by another uncompromising reeds player, Sam Rivers.

The one compromise that Dabner is willing to make is to break his vegetarian vows and allow his chef to serve fish and free-range poultry. "I can impose jazz on London," he says, "but unfortunately not vegetarianism."

ated songs are by no means to be considered mere preliminaries to his later orchestral versions. Brigitte Fassbaender and Thomas Moser's recording of the piano version of *Das Lied von der Erde* (Teldec 2292 46276-2) was revelatory. Siegfried Jerusalem's new release of the Rückert Lieder and songs from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* is an equally strong advocate of the more familiar piano versions of these songs, thanks to Siegfried Mauser's strongly defined accompaniment.

Jerusalem, highly sought after as an operatic helden-

RECORDS: CLASSICAL

Poetry in song

Brahms: Lieder Thomas Allen/ Geoffrey Parsons. Virgin Classics VC 7 91130-2.
Schubert: Schwaneengesang Olaf Bär/Parsons. EMI CDC 7 49987 2.
Mahler: Des Knaben Wunderhorn/Rückert Lieder Siegfried Jerusalem/Sigfried Mauser. Virgin Classics VC 7 91114-2.

Allen imaginatively at the piano, whether in the loose-limbed interplay of right and left hand in "Wir wandeln" or in restating the Bohemian dance which pulses behind the folksong. It is Parsons, too, who gives added ballast and breadth to the singing of Olaf Bär in their latest release of Schubert's *Schwaneengesang*.

The German baritone's voice is younger, lighter and, as yet, less muscular than Allen's. It does not take kindly to strain: this disc was made a year ago, before Bär's recent summer of indisposition, and it points the distinctive qual-

ities of this particular stage in its growth.

Its long, warm lines effortlessly shape certain songs, but are reluctant to bite deep into the rhythms of "Aufenthalts". There is, though, a new sense of concentration, a greater dimension of strength already showing in Bär's handling of the darker Heine songs. He finds a real alter ego of anguish for "Der Doppelgänger", and is the equal in stature, if not yet in deepest pitch, for the world-carrying "Der Atlas".

Recent musicalological discoveries have underlined the fact that Mahler's piano accompa-

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EVENING WEAR EVER

at RICHARDS

Bernard Levin

will be at
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tomorrow

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Baker reviews all options in new phase of confrontation

From SUSAN ELLICOTT in WASHINGTON

JAMES Baker, the US Secretary of State, said yesterday the Gulf confrontation was entering a new phase and America had to be prepared to take advantage of any available option to resolve it.

His remarks, made after a three-hour meeting with the exiled emir of Kuwait in Saudi Arabia, were widely interpreted as signalling the Bush administration's determination to go to war with Iraq if international sanctions fail to drive President Saddam Hussein's troops out of Kuwait.

But Mr Baker emphasised that Washington would prefer to solve the situation "in the political,

economic and military spheres". At Mr Baker's request, the emir, Sheikh Jaber Ahmed al-Sabah, promised to increase Kuwait's financial contribution to Operation Shield if the Gulf confrontation extends into next year. The emir also called for the swift liberation of his country. He made the call the day after Baghdad vowed that it would never withdraw its troops "even if we have to fight a dangerous war".

The two men met in the mountain resort of Taif, where the emir has been in exile since Iraq invaded its neighbour three months ago and declared Iraq's 19th province.

Mr Baker, who is touring the Middle East and Europe for a week to confer with regional leaders about the Gulf situation, said Americans must be prepared to "put ourselves in a position where we should be able to exercise any options that might be available". He was due later to meet King Fahd of Saudi Arabia before travelling to Egypt, Turkey, Britain, France and the Soviet Union. He was expected to ask the king to consider possible military options if economic sanctions approved by the United Nations security council fail to drive out Iraqi forces.

The emir said he would prefer his country "liberated today rather than tomorrow" and would not mind if a rescue from Iraqi occupation took place even without the backing of the UN.

According to some reports, Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, has decided to send Baghdad a signal of his continued resolve by calling up for Gulf duty thousands of "weekend warriors" from reserve combat units in addition to the 34,000 members of support units already deployed. But the Pentagon denied this yesterday, saying no authorisation existed for the call-up of reserves other than a maximum of 48,800 from support units.

Watchdog calls for prison task force

Continued from page 1

stayed too long in their cells, category A prisoners were barred completely from the gym and education classes and young remand inmates were allowed "association", a period to relax out of their cells with fellow inmates, for only two hours every third day. Only one cell at Armley has a toilet.

The inspectorate was so alarmed by the regime on B wing, the subject of repeated criticism by penal reformers, that it considered the only long-term solution was for the Home Office to abolish custodial remands to Armley for offenders aged under 21. Although staff-inmate relationships appear amicable throughout Armley, management needs to imbue prison officers with a new sense of reforming purpose, the report says. There is also evidence of racist attitudes among staff.

The report also urges officials to consider installing chemical toilets in cells as a temporary measure, to launch an immediate programme to fit showers on all existing wings, and to raise pay rates for inmates who work.

Last night, the Home Office said it did not believe creating a task force was the most efficient way of tackling Armley's difficulties but that all the proposals would be studied carefully. David Waddington, the home secretary, said "strenuous efforts" were being made to improve the quantity and quality of the regime at Armley.

Staff were warned by another inmate that Simon Willerton, aged 17, a remand prisoner, had tried to kill himself just hours before he hanged himself in a cell at Armley jail, an inquest at Leeds heard yesterday. The inquest continues.

Weekend warriors, page 10



Baker: three-hour meeting with exiled emir of Kuwait



Father of an elite fighting force: Sir David Stirling with a long range desert group patrol in north Africa in 1942 and, below, with General Georges Berge

Death of the SAS founder

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

COLONEL Sir David Stirling, founder of the SAS, the elite army unit that has served as a model of excellence for special forces around the world, died at the London Clinic on Sunday after a long illness. He was aged 74.

Sir David proposed the setting up of a special unit in 1941 while in a Cairo hospital after injuring himself during a parachute jump. Then a 25-year-old lieutenant, he proposed, in a pencil-written note to his superiors, that four-man units should be trained to operate behind German lines as saboteurs.

His concept of small, highly trained teams working undercover proved highly successful during the Second World War. He added, however, an ingredient that went against the accepted tenets of the British Army: a rejection of the normal officer/rank hierarchy.

Anyone who succeeded in passing the rigid selection test was required to be self-motivated and self-disciplined. To this day officers and men in the SAS address each other using first names.

Sir David, the son of a Scottish brigadier-general, persuaded senior officers to give him six officers and 60 NCOs to try out his theories in north Africa. The unit was later expanded to form a

regiment. He became known as the "Phantom Major" among Rommel's troops after destroying nearly 400 enemy aircraft as well as scores of fuel and ammunition dumps in attacks behind German lines.

Field Marshal Lord Bramall, former chief of the defence staff, said last night: "He was a remarkable man. If he wanted you to do something for him, you couldn't refuse."

Sir David, who never married, was recognised in the 1990 New Years honours list and knighted for his services to the military.



page 16

Rhodesia's last governor Sir Humphrey Gibbs dies

SIR Humphrey Gibbs, the last governor of Rhodesia, whose death at the age of 87, was reported yesterday in Harare, won the gratitude of the Harold Wilson government and the Queen for his handling of the constitutional crisis caused by Ian Smith's unilateral declaration of independence.

Sir Humphrey was the first Rhodesian to be appointed governor, in 1959, but his loyalty to the Queen and the constitution was unwavering during the tumultuous days of the white government's rebellion.

With only three loyal staff he stayed on at Government House in what was then Salisbury. Although Ian Smith and his administration refused to recognise his office he became a focus and symbol for those opposed to the

rebellion. He stayed at his post for four years, leaving only when Mr Smith declared Rhodesia a republic in 1965.

During that time he refused to have anything to do with the illegal regime either in support or opposition and would not accept his salary.

Resigning in 1969 when the government formally declared Rhodesia a republic, he said he was leaving down his office "with sadness but without bitterness and rancour".

When he finally left Government House, Sir Humphrey was flown to Britain on board a special Royal Air Force flight, received by the Queen.

He was appointed a Privy Councillor and was also promoted by the Queen to a Knight Grand Cross of the Victorian Order.

Thatcher to counter-attack

Continued from page 1

settled in the 1970s. "In the 1990s, no one is seriously suggesting that Britain should withdraw from the community the sovereignty which we have pooled or abandon the treaty commitments which successive prime ministers have entered into. We have to make a success of Britain in Europe."

He said that in time, if peoples and governments chose, a common currency could evolve to replace a single currency. But that would be the result of choice, not imposition. "We are ready to move beyond stage one," he said, "but before deciding when to do something it is best to decide what you are going to do."

The Bruges Group of Conservatives, who are opposed to a relinquishing power to Europe, accused Mr Heseltine of "short-term thinking and an imperfect understanding of history" by

recommending an integrationist approach to the EC. The group criticised suggestions that the pound could continue after EMU if the ecu value was printed on the back of banknotes. "It is dishonest and patronising to lead the British people into believing that the Queen's government manages the pound when in reality its value is fixed overwhelmingly by foreigners."

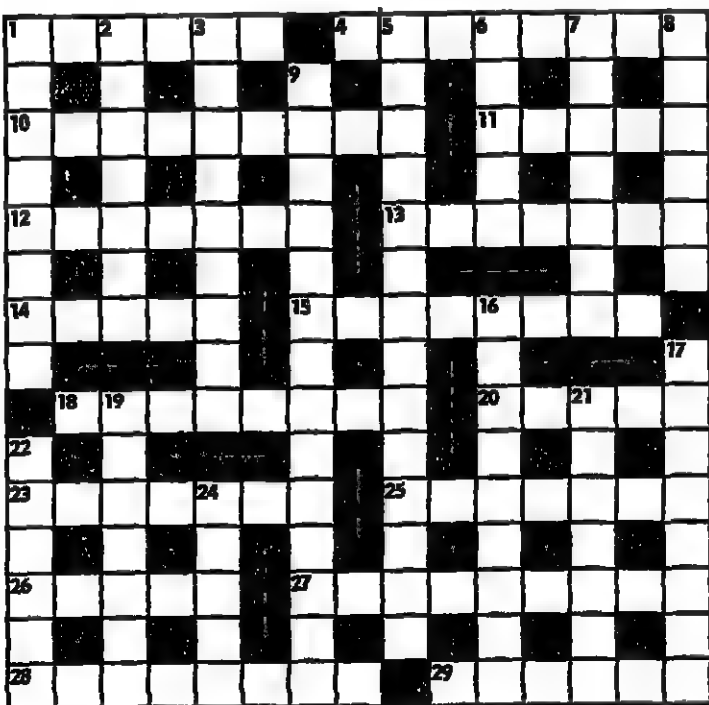
Tory backbenchers are divided on the wisdom of mounting a leadership contest, but Sir Philip Goodhart predicted that Mr Heseltine would reconsider his decision not to challenge Mrs Thatcher directly. On BBC TV's *Breakfast News* programme he said that poll findings pointed to the prime minister winning a leadership contest "but probably with a smaller majority than last time".

The anti-EC MP Teddy Taylor

said that Mrs Thatcher should stay as prime minister to handle the crisis over Europe. Mr Taylor, secretary of the 70-strong Conservative backbench European Reform Group, was introducing a report by the group proposing that Britain should have an "associate" status with the EC to avoid future conflict. Asked if Mrs Thatcher should remain as leader, he said: "It is absolutely vital for Britain that she should stay on. She is one of the few willing to face up to the problems, identify them and suggest something should be done about it."

Sir Marcus Fox, vice-chairman of the Conservative backbench 1922 Committee, said the vast majority of backbenchers believed it was only possible to win the next general election under Mrs Thatcher's leadership. He did not believe Mr Heseltine would stand against her.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,444



ACROSS

- 1 Dirty little rascal gets superior type of education (6).
- 4 Wise man restricts speed of movement in the supersonic era (5,3).
- 10 Abrasive essay by French writer (9).
- 11 We hear that awful woman (5).
- 12 Chap with slippery customer is polite (7).
- 13 Crash in viva for a First? (7).
- 14 Alluring female losing her head, oriental lady (5).
- 15 Kidnap and lynch maybe in quiet road (8).
- 18 Harmless play - too nice when the last characters exult (8).
- 20 Sort of organ where the air comes through (5).
- 23 Recruit for service riding for exercise (5,2).

- 25 Appearing to be champion at card game? (7).
- 26 Notice someone worthy of honour, a brick (5).
- 27 A jolly fuss about wretched animal (9).
- 28 Member of old tribe with long hair? A female Esau maybe (8).
- 29 Twist the man put at end of legal document (6).

DOWN

- 1 Marks of insignificance, 50%? Top grade! (8).
- 2 The last character to leave Cornish town feeling sorry (7).
- 3 Once again offer to play a part (9).
- 5 What Nelson was given, the means to publish his own message (8,6).
- 6 Officer has got married - under the thumb? (5).
- 7 Insect upset girl with an appendage on its head? (7).
- 8 Expire, no longer healthy (6).
- 9 The East London flight (6,3,5).
- 16 After midnight the prisoner is inside, under a charge (9).
- 17 Jack may have a flutter, given this (8).
- 19 Terribly idle now? Don't bother to get up (3,4).
- 21 Frying pan sounds as though it needs some expertise (7).
- 22 Print prominently using a modicum of colour? (6).
- 24 Mere deviation from course (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,443

SCAMP IMPRESSED
TERRIBLE DAY
AMONGST THE
ROCKS
BOTTLED
ADROU
DASH FOR
RESTRIC
GRAVE
ENGLAND
DEIGNATED

Concise Crossword, page 17

WEATHER

It will be mainly dry with the odd light shower in southeastern coastal districts and the Channel Islands. There will be a frosty start in many places away from the east coast as well as patchy fog, which will clear to hazy sunshine during the morning. Temperatures will be a little below normal, with light north or northeasterly winds. Outlook: dry with sunny spells but night frost and fog in places.

ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	17-23	SE	1-3	
Algeria	17-23	SE	1-3	
Algeria	17-23	SE	1-3	
Algeria	17-23	SE	1-3	
Algeria	17-23	SE	1-3	
Algeria	17-23	SE	1-3	
Algeria	17-23	SE	1-3	
Algeria	17-23	SE	1-3	
Algeria	17-23	SE	1-3	
Algeria	17-23	SE	1-3	

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-13	SE	1-3	
London	10-13	SE	1-3	
London	10-13	SE	1-3	
London	10-13	SE	1-3	
London	10-13	SE	1-3	
London	10-13	SE	1-3	
London	10-13	SE	1-3	
London	10-13	SE	1-3	
London	10-13	SE	1-3	
London	10-13	SE	1-3	

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- HACKBUTT**
a. The yearling haddock
b. Primitive football
c. An early firearm
- RINGTAILS**
a. Malaysian currency
b. Dutch chain armour
c. A spitting cobra
- INDAGATE**
a. Walking like an Untouchable
b. Part of a sheep dip enclosure
c. To investigate
- DROP-KICK**
a. A worthless person
b. A dance step
c. A boot remover

Answers on page 20, column 1

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, hours a day, dial 0800 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks
C. London (within N & S Circles) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford 733
Dartford-T. M23 734
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Angles 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 9 am to 6 pm, 11C (59F); min 6 pm to 9 am, 5C (41F). Humidity: 5 pm, 74 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 5.5 hrs. Bar: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,000 millibars, rising.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: Salford, 19C (66F); lowest day temp: Avonmouth, 14C (57F). Highest night temp: Lowestoft, 10C (50F). Lowest night temp: Lowestoft, 5.5C (42F).

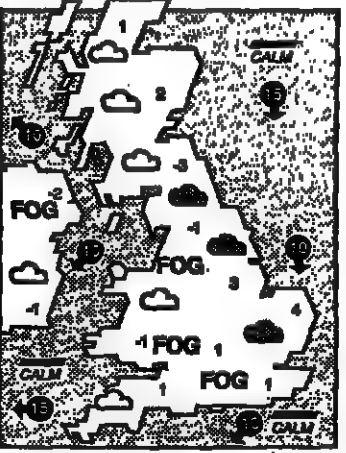
MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 10C (50F); min 6 pm to 9 am, 5C (41F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 5.4 hrs.

GLASGOW

Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

AM PM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 4.25 pm to 7.04 am
Bristol 4.35 pm to 7.14 am
Edinburgh 4.25 pm to 7.06 am
Manchester 4.27 pm to 7.19 am
Preston 4.51 pm to 7.22 am

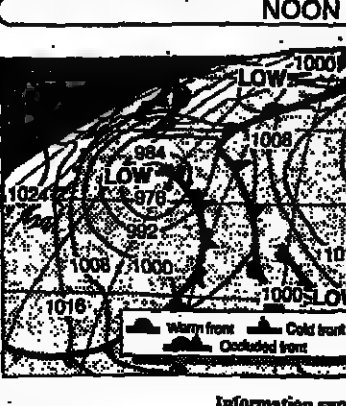
YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday:
last 7, rain, s, sun, cloud, f.

HIGH TIDES

Area	AM	PM	AM	PM
London Bridge	3.05	3.55	3.05	3.55
London Bridge	3.05	3.55	3.05	3.55
London Bridge	3.05	3.55	3.05	3.55
London Bridge	3.05	3.55	3.05	3.55
London Bridge	3.05	3.55	3.05	3.55
London Bridge	3.05	3.55	3.05	3.55
London Bridge	3.05	3.55	3.05	3.55
London Bridge	3.05	3.55	3.05	3.55
London Bridge	3.05	3.55	3.05	3.55
London Bridge	3.05	3.55	3.05	3.55

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

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● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-29
● EUROPEAN INSURANCE REPORT 30-32
● LAW 34,35
● SPORT 39-44

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

BUSINESS

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 6 1990

Single market may hit older British industries, says EC report

From PETER GUILFORD IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN'S labour-intensive industries could be vulnerable to competition after 1992, according to a European Commission analysis of European industry.

After ten years of tough economic medicine, many British companies are as well placed as their rivals to exploit the single European market, and are expected to spread their operations across the Continent in anticipation of 1992.

But the lagging performance of Britain's labour-intensive industries could make them more vulnerable when tariffs

and other trade barriers finally disappear. In this analysis of the way EC industries are reacting to the single market, Britain is placed firmly among its Northern European partners on the luckier side of a north-south divide.

While the single market is encouraging northern companies to integrate their highly sophisticated economies further without having to move into new sectors, companies from southern Europe are faced with a daunting choice: either to tackle their northern rivals by breaking into whole new areas of industry, or to consolidate their hold over traditional labour-intensive industries such as tex-

tiles and footwear, and dramatically upgrade their quality in order to fend off third world competition.

The choice is hardest for Greece and Portugal, while Spain has already made inroads into the northern-dominated world of electronics. The analysis, unveiled by the European Commission yesterday, attempts to smooth growing fears that free trade and fierce competition will provoke massive industrial and social upheaval. Henning Christoffersen, European commissioner for macro-economic policy, said: "The fear of massive transfers of economic activities between geographic zones is exaggerated."

The 350-page report, entitled *European Economy - the Impact of the Internal Market*, was compiled by Brussels after extensive research with EC states themselves, and marks the first attempt to detect the concrete effect of 1992 on European industry. Previous reports have been limited to forecasting and speculation, EC officials said.

Companies generating at least half of Britain's employment and added value are described as "sensitive to the completion of the single market". These will be greatly affected by the removal of trade barriers and the influx of new markets and new competition. Comput-

ers, telecommunications, chemicals, and precision-engineering companies are deemed the strongest exporters from Britain. They are expected to excel after 1992 by boosting their research and development and spreading further in Europe to use the EC as a springboard to greater global competitiveness.

Contrary to other forecasts, the trend for cross-border mergers in Britain is expected to continue. Unlike industries in Southern Europe, leading British companies will not need to branch into new areas of production as they focus on alliances with overseas firms.

By contrast, textiles, cars and simple

consumer goods companies - described by the report as "below-average" performers - may take a heavier battering when national barriers disappear. The impact may be lessened for Britain, which is already one of Europe's freest economies, and where some sectors, notably cars, have already been exposed to foreign competition, mainly from Japan.

Despite Britain's serious hesitation over further political moves to unite the Continent, British industry is seen as relatively prepared. About half of the companies analysed have taken action or are considering what action to take to prepare for the single market.

ABF cash mountain brings in £67.5m

THE £1.1 billion cash mountain at Associated British Foods, the milling and baking group, accounted for almost all of a 19 per cent rise in half-time profits to £132.3 million.

Warm winter weather hit sales in domestic bread markets and trading profits grew by only 4 per cent to £66.9 million. But investment income soared by £17.2 million to £67.5 million.

ABF also delivered a warning that the first-half gains will not be maintained over the rest of the year. The company confirmed it has taken no decision to adjust the book value of its 34 per cent holding in Berriford, currently £133 million. But at present prices, the holding is worth about £30 million. The interim dividend rises from 3.3p per share to 3.7p.

Temps, page 25

Renold declines

Renold, the chain and gear maker, has announced a 47.5 per cent fall in interim profits and gave a warning of a further deterioration in the second half. During the six months to end-September pre-tax profits fell from £4 million to £2.1 million on turnover down from £71.3 million to £65.4 million. Earnings were 1.5p a share, against 4.6p. The interim dividend is maintained at 1.2p a share.

Temps, page 25

Prowing slides

The depressed housing market hit pre-tax profits at Prowing, the housebuilder. They fell 48 per cent to £5 million in the half year to end-August. But the dividend is held at 1.7p.

Temps, page 25

THE POUND

US dollar

1.9675 (+0.0140)

German mark

2.9277 (-0.0012)

Exchange index

94.3 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share

1581.1 (+10.4)

FT-SE 100

2050.1 (+19.4)

New York Dow Jones

2494.41 (-8.43)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave

24385.33 (+190.34)

Major indices and

major changes Page 26

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 14%

3-month interbank 13 1/2%-13 3/4%

8-month eligible bills 13 1/2%-13 3/4%

US: Prime Rate 10%

Federal Funds 7 1/4%-7 3/4%

3-month Treasury Bills 7 1/2%-7 3/4%

30-year bonds 100 1/2%-100 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London:

£: \$1.9675

£: DM2.9277

£: Sfr2.4643

£: FF49.8185

£: Yen245.58

£: Index94.3

ECU £0.70078

ECU £1.427188

SDR £0.73244

SDR £1.356403

GOLD

London Fixing:

AM \$377.05 pm \$376.90

close \$378.75-377.25 (£191.75)

192.25

New York:

Comex \$378.60-379.10

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec 1) \$32.85/bbl (\$31.60)

* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$

2.555

Austria Sch

21.50

Belgium Fr

81.20

Canada \$

2.368

Denmark Kr

7.32

Finland Mk

10.24

France Fr

10.24

Germany DM

318.00

Greece Dr

15.90

Hong Kong \$

10.75

India Ru

25.00

Japan Yen

254.00

Netherlands Gld

11.34

Norway Kr

253.00

Portugal Esc

200.00

South Africa Rd

191.50

Spain Ptas

166.64

Sweden Kr

11.28

Switzerland Fr

2.00

Turkey Lira

5.00

USA \$

2.005

Yugoslavia Din

20.00

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index, 129.3 (September)

SE joins police in hunt for bear raiders

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THE International Stock Exchange is investigating more than a dozen recent bear raids that have knocked the stock market value of companies such as P&O, Polly Peck International and Brent Walker. The raids have been driven by negative, false rumours.

The bear raid on Polly Peck is responsible for putting the company into administration, according to Asif Nadir, its chairman. The raid is currently under investigation by the stock exchange. Peter Rawlings, its chief executive, said: "Sir Jeffrey Sterling, P&O's chairman, recently called for an enquiry by the exchange into his company's share price movement."

The exchange is working with the trade and industry department and the police in an effort to catch the perpetrators of bear raids. Under section 47 of the Financial Services Act, it is a criminal offence to spread rumours in order to create a false market in a company's shares.

Mr Rawlings emphasised that there was nothing illegal about short selling shares. "What is a problem is if someone sells short and then spreads a malicious rumour".

Mr Rawlings said that the exchange is able to identify individuals who have made a profit by short selling shares in a company which has been the subject of false rumours. In some cases, lists of these individuals have been passed to the police. Mr Rawlings said he was "quietly con-

fident" there would be results.

The exchange itself is not able to prosecute cases where section 47 of the FSA is broken but it does have powers to collect evidence and question those who have dealt in shares. This evidence can then be passed on to the appropriate body and these powers have been used by the exchange in the last month. Mr Rawlings said: "He refused to name the cases the exchange is investigating."

Mr Rawlings' comments came as the exchange presented a package of reforms designed to increase the liquidity of the market and called upon John Major, the chancellor, to change the rules about capital gains tax to stimulate greater participation in the equity market.

In its budget submission, the exchange is calling for the removal of capital gains tax liability where the proceeds of a share sale are immediately reinvested. CGT would be chargeable as soon as the proceeds of a share sale were spent.

Andrew Hugh Smith, the exchange's chairman, says the current CGT regime penalises investment in direct equities over other forms of investment. Consequently the percentage of shares held directly by private individuals has fallen to under 20 per cent.

The changes to the exchange's rules have been anticipated by the market. They include the abolition of the Sea classification of shares as alpha, beta or gamma, which Mr Hugh Smith says have become a

symbol of the share's quality. Instead shares will be classified from January 14 by a new measure of liquidity relating to their average market turnover - "the Normal Market Size". There will be 12 NMS bands ranging from 500 shares to 200,000 shares.

In a new move designed to improve the poor levels of trading in shares of smaller companies, the exchange has secured a commitment from market-makers that there will be at least two firms displaying firm quotations in stocks with an NMS of 500 or 1,000 shares. The firms involved in discussions so far are BZW, Warburg, Smith New Court, Kleinwort, Hoare Govett and UBS Phillips & Drew. Talks will be held with other market-making firms with a view to spreading the load.

Matched bargains proposed by agency brokers at or outside the best prices will have to be offered to market-makers which will boost their chances of higher turnover in smaller stocks.

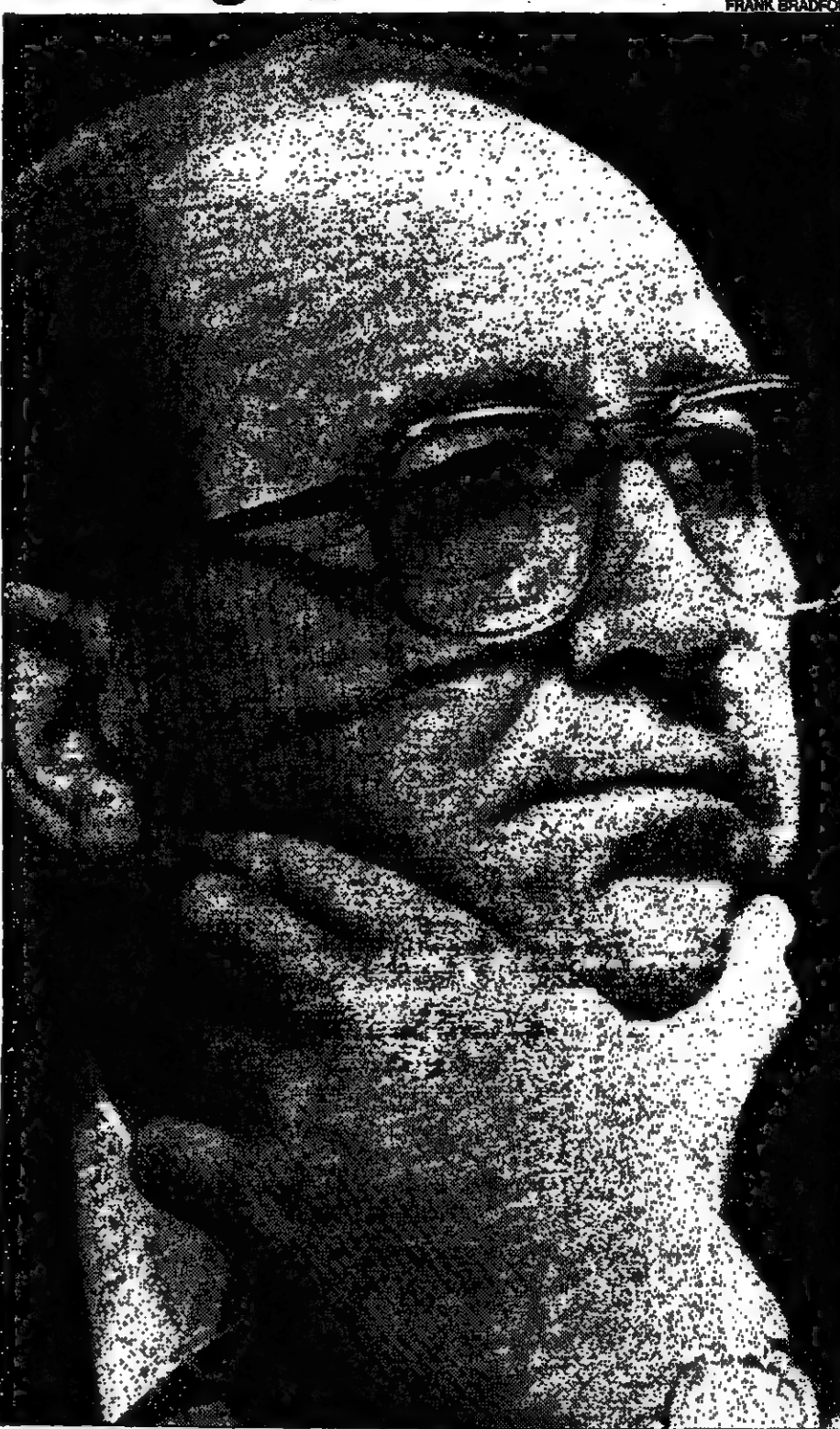
Other rule changes that will improve liquidity also come into force in the new year. They include changes in initial public offerings and sponsors of companies raising up to £15 million may place the entire issue with their own clients but at least 5 per cent has to be offered to an independent market-maker. In larger flotations, there must be two market-makers who will also have access to 5 per cent of the issue.

Comment, page 25

Letters, page 26

CBI again attacks short-termism

By ROSS TIEMAN AND DEREK HARRIS



Preaching revolution: Sir Bryan Nicholson reported progress on skills shortages.

A NEW drive to tackle the short-termism dilemma which bedevils relations between the City and industry was unveiled at the annual conference of the Confederation of British Industry in Glasgow.

Sir Brian Corby, the CBI president who is chairman of the Prudential Corporation, one of the biggest City institutions, has invited City leaders, the trade department and the Bank of England, to set up a steering group to have a fresh attempt at bringing everybody towards a more long-term view for companies and their prospects. It is seen as the best way to boost longer-term planning for industry and more commitment to research.

The first day of the conference also saw an initiative announced by Michael Howard, the employment secretary, aimed at lifting the quality of training across British industry to the standards of the best companies.

Sir Bryan Nicholson, head of the CBI's education and training affairs committee, reported on action to tackle skill shortages. "Many of the seeds necessary for the success of the skills revolution have been planted over the last 12 months. Indeed, I believe that the revolution has begun."

The 750 delegates heard criticisms of industry attitudes towards opportunities in eastern Europe. Earl Jellicoe, president of the East European Trade Council, said hotels in Prague, Budapest, Warsaw and Krakow, were bursting with tourists and business travellers from Germany and Austria, but "precious few Brits".

A debate showed delegates determined to manage unit costs, which have been running ahead of those of international competitors. Several said paying out according to RPI increases without fully taking into account matching productivity increases and the effect on profitability was industry's own version of short-termism.

Leading article, page 15

Speeches, page 24

Comment, page 25

Governor opposes monetary union

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Bank of England has expressed opposition to early monetary union in Europe, throwing its support firmly behind the government.

British objections were outlined in an unusually robust speech delivered in Paris yesterday by Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England. He went beyond some official criticisms from Britain and said: "We do not think that a further commitment to carry out a detailed blueprint for full monetary union is appropriate or indeed wise at this time."

Small rises in retail sales and new credit for consumers in September were shrugged off by the financial markets, as expectations grew that base rates will be cut soon (Colin Narbrough writes).

Through the volume index of retail sales rose a final, seasonally adjusted 0.6 per cent in September to 122.7. It

followed a 1.6 per cent fall in August, owing a third quarter fall of 0.7 per cent over the previous quarter. Compared with the third quarter of 1989, it rose 1 per cent.

New credit advanced to consumers was a seasonally adjusted £3.75 billion in September, up from £3.69 billion in August and £3.44 billion in September last year. Outstanding consumer credit rose by £400 million compared with £200 million in August.

The pound was weak in early trading, falling as low as DM2.9160 at one stage. Helped by the weak dollar, reaching a record low of DM1.4923 in Frankfurt, sterling recovered from a low of 94.0 on its trade-weighted index to close in London at 94.3, up 0.1 point on Friday's close. Against the mark it ended at DM2.9276, against DM2.9289 on Friday.

Jaguar sales in US slump by 27.7%

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

JAGUAR sales slumped by 27.7 per cent last month in the United States, the company's biggest market, as economic unease swept through the luxury car sector there.

Sales of the car-maker, now owned by Ford, fell from 1,507 in October last year to 1,089 against the background of President Bush's Budget worries and fears of new taxes on the rich.

The October drop was fearsome even against the downward trend and turbulence in the market. Jaguar attributed most of the fall to the change-over to new model specifications, normally introduced during October and which often encourage buyers to wait before investing in their new luxury car.

The one-month fall, however, has not put Jaguar too far off course of keeping American sales, which account for about 40 per cent of

output, level over the year. Sales in the first ten months are down 1.4 per cent, from 15,389 to 15,180, while European rivals selling in America are also troubled. Mercedes-Benz has kept sales about level while introducing the new SL limousine range, but BMW has seen sales fall about 7 per cent so far.

Jaguar said last night: "The market in the USA is extremely difficult for everyone because of the economic problems of the country and increasing competition both from the Japanese and American-manufactured cars."

But there was brighter news for the Coventry firm from the Far East last night. Sales of Jaguars in Japan exceeded 2,000 for the first time, reaching 2,033 in the year to October against 1,438 in 1989 and an annual total of only about 400 three years ago.

Investors plan a Savage coup

By STEPHEN LEATHER

A GROUP of Britain's biggest financial institutions are backing plans to replace the management of Savage Group, the DIY group quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market.

Brian Cox, the former chairman of Camford Engineering, which was taken over by Markheath Securities this year, and merchant bankers at Smith New Court Corporate Finance, have persuaded shareholders controlling 39.8 per cent of Savage's shares to call an extraordinary meeting.

Investors will vote on resolutions to remove Nick Savage, the chairman and a grandson of the company's founder, David Stephens, the finance director, and David Brown, the chief executive.

The attempted coup represents a toughening of attitudes among Britain's big institutions, who, as the recession tightens, are no longer content to be passive investors.

If the move succeeds, Mr Cox hopes to take over the running of the company, with Don Wightman, a former main board director, as chief executive. Also on Mr Cox's team are Pierre de Vos, Savage's former business development manager, Ainsley Newing, a former Savage employee, Chris Wilson, finance director-elect, and Sir Michael Carlisle. All plan to become directors.

Mr Cox said he had the backing of Norwich Union, Savage's largest investor, with a 9.6 per cent, and the support of AETNA (8.9 per cent), Scottish Mutual (7.2 per cent), Equitable Life (5.5 per cent), Abbey Life (3 per cent) and Scottish Amicable (2.6 per cent). He added that by today he hoped to have the backing of 48 per cent of the shareholders. "Under new legislation, the management have seven weeks in which to call the meeting, but we would hope that they would move aside as quickly as possible," he said.

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CBI CONFERENCE

High-powered team to tackle industry's relations with City

SIR Brian Corby launched a new initiative to tackle relations between the City and industry in his presidential speech opening the national conference of the Confederation of British Industry in Glasgow.

Unveiling plans to set up a high-powered steering group, Sir Brian admitted that some had found the outcome of a CBI task force representing the City and industry that reported three years ago "somewhat anodyne". It had investigated widespread worries among industrialists about short-termism in the City.

The task force played down any serious split between the City and industry although it made recommendations to improve relationships between companies and shareholders like the powerful City institutions.

The new move, a bid to bring leaders of the City's

most powerful groupings together with industrial leaders, is expected to carry extra weight in the City because of Sir Brian's background. As chairman of the Prudential Corporation, he is a City man himself.

Sir Brian aims to set up a steering group to promote "long termism and corporate governance". He has invited leaders of the International Stock Exchange, the Association of British Insurers, the National Association of Pension Funds and the Institutional Fund Managers Association to join the group.

Underlining the need for a fresh approach on short-termism, Sir Brian said: "Where we can all be criticised is that when the task force report was received too many thought the problem had gone away and that no further action was needed."

"This is something which

we have to work on year in, year out, when times are good and when they are not."

He added: "We need to work extremely hard to ensure that the system of corporate governance — of relationships between companies and shareholders and between trustees of pension funds and their investment managers and advisers — works better."

Sir Brian welcomed the range of different bodies trying to improve the effectiveness of links between those owning industry and its managers. He added: "It will only be by our persistence in improving these links in many different ways that we will make progress in encouraging both owners and management to plan for continuity."

Sir Brian believes a high-level steering group will provide the best chance of making the multiple efforts being made to overcome problems of short-termism most effective. He wants the steering group to report regularly.

He set out three objectives. Management should be fully accountable to its board and the board to its shareholders. At the same time shareholders "should accept the responsibility which ownership implies."

Sir Brian emphasised how continuation of investment by industry demanded confidence that the rules were not suddenly going to change or that the exchange rate and interest rates were not going to be as volatile as in the past. It also demanded confidence about the national infrastructure.

In a reference to interest rates, Sir Brian said: "We need to exercise inflation from our society. But the measures we necessarily take to bring this about could have the effect — if we allow them to go too far — that we might not be in a position industrially to take advantage of our very success."

Business could only work on a timescale of three or five years or longer and that demanded continuity, said Sir Brian. He added: "Government appears to operate on a very much shorter timescale." He pointed to the frequency of changes in ministerial portfolios saying lack of continuity was exacerbated if a change of government occurred.

Comment, page 25



Training talk: Michael Howard addressing the conference yesterday

Howard unveils programme to encourage high quality training

A NATIONWIDE scheme under which companies will be invited to make a public commitment to high quality training was launched by Michael Howard, the employment secretary. His Investors in People programme was unveiled at the end of a keynote debate on Britain's "skills revolution."

Mr Howard told delegates that training should be as keenly discussed in the boardroom as capital investment plans. Under his scheme, companies will have to meet four key assessments before they qualify for the standard.

Its award, he said, would benefit employers and employees. And he suggested the impending fall in the number of school leavers would push even reluctant companies to seek the award to attract staff.

To qualify for the standard, companies will have to work with their local training and enterprise council to draw up acceptable training proposals as part of their business plan. The programme is intended to be closely tailored to the needs of individual businesses.

"Nobody should be training just for training's sake," Mr Howard stressed.

Four requirements will underpin qualification for the award. A company will have to make a public commitment "from the top" to develop employees to meet its business objectives. It will have to regularly review the training and development needs of

every employee, and provide them with training throughout their employment. Finally, it will have to evaluate the effectiveness of the training against its business objectives.

The training standard was drawn up by business people participating in Mr Howard's National Training Task Force. It was intended to spread the practices of Britain's biggest and best companies throughout industry and commerce.

Training should be driven not by altruism, but by bottom line considerations, Mr Howard said. "It brings benefits such as recruiting the best people, reduced staff turnover, increased motivation, and increased staff commitment."

Last year's Labour Force Survey showed a 70 per cent increase in the number of employees receiving training from their companies over the previous five years.

Despite strong evidence of a squeeze on capital spending, the most recent CBI survey showed companies still intend to increase spending on training. However, Mr Howard insisted there was no room for complacency.

● Action to tackle skills shortages was reported by Sir Bryan Nicholson, chairman of the CBI education and training affairs committee. Sir Bryan, chairman and chief executive of the Post Office, brought in last year's action programme evolved by the CBI task force looking at the skills problem.

More than half the report's 55 recommendations had been accepted in full or in part and there were developments in train on another 14, Sir Bryan said. "Many of the seeds necessary for the success of the skills revolution have been planted over the last 12 months. Indeed, I believe that the revolution has begun," he added.

The task force had pressed for training credits for young people, an idea taken up by government and now in the pilot stage with 10 Training and Enterprise Councils and one Local Enterprise Company, the Scottish equivalent of a TEC.

Another breakthrough had been the government decision to introduce core skills into qualifications for 16 year olds to 19 year olds, Sir Bryan told the conference.

Scotch distillers say 1992 may hit sales

THE Scotch whisky industry fears completion of the single internal market will damage its sales on the Continent.

Mike Cowman, of the Scotch Whisky Association, said that while his industry supports the idea of a single market, it is worried it could be worse off after 1992.

He told delegates that the prospect of finding member states reaching an agreement on harmonising alcohol excise duties that is acceptable to both the United Kingdom and continental spirits industries.

Mr Cowman said present proposals would not achieve the level of approximation of duties necessary to eliminate discrimination against Scotch whisky and other spirits. They would end up producing a "diversion of trade and distortion of competition".

He said: "Perhaps the most damaging practical effects of the present proposals would be a substantial depression in the spirits market in the Mediterranean member states as a result of massive increases in excise tax, 151 per cent in Spain and 243 per cent in Italy."

Mr Cowman said the community is wrong in argu-

ing that there would be no justification in continuing with duty-free sales after 1992. The Scotch whisky industry would lose sales worth more than £40 million a year, equivalent to losing the West German market.

He said the duty-free trade's compatibility with the single internal market came down to devising adequate, alternative controls to make sure that duty-free sales to EC travellers did not exceed levels acceptable to individual states.

Mr Cowman asked the confederation to support retention of the duty-free trade and to try to convince the government and the EC commission that it is compatible with the internal market.

The association believes all alcoholic drinks should be taxed at the same rate depending on the degree of alcohol.

● John Byers, financial director of Highland Distilleries, last night poured a bottle of whisky down the drain to demonstrate how much money industry wastes using cash and cheques instead of automated payments. He said industry wastes the equivalent of 500,000 bottles of Scotch a day using cash and cheques.

Rifkind sees new industrial balance

BRITAIN was moving towards a new industrial and economic balance after several decades in which commercial strength had concentrated in the Southeast of England, Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish secretary, told the conference.

Mr Rifkind said that over the past 18 months more private and public sector organisations had chosen to relocate outside the Southeast to the benefit of the regions and Scotland and Wales.

"I believe there is a trend taking place, not limited to this country, in locating or relocating elsewhere in the kingdom. As technology ad-

vances that task is made more and more easy," he said, adding that geographical location was no longer a problem for companies wishing to export far afield.

He cited the Japanese who had penetrated the world's markets from thousands of miles away. Similarly, Edinburgh had become Britain's second most important financial centre in spite of being 400 miles from London.

Scotland, said Mr Rifkind, had benefited greatly from inward investment and relocation. Its economy, in spite of

recent high interest rates and a general slowdown nationwide, was healthier than any other part of Britain.

Mr Rifkind said that while unemployment was increasing in the rest of the UK, it was still falling in Scotland. The construction industry, a good indicator to the economy, was enjoying better order books and more confidence in Scotland than in the South.

Relocation was occurring faster as more companies realised the benefits of a skilled workforce in Scotland and the cost savings. Mr Rifkind said

that a company locating in Edinburgh or Glasgow, with 2,000 employees and needing 30,000 sq ft of space, could save £2 million a year compared with the Southeast.

Already a large number of civil service jobs had moved north of the border. There were now 200 electronic companies in central Scotland employing more than 40,000 people from all over the world. Thirty per cent of all personal computers sold in Europe were made in Scotland. He assured delegates that the offer of regional selective assistance was the same for UK companies as for overseas firms.

Reporters: Ross Tienan, Kerry Gill and Derek Harris

Wm Cook rises 55% aided by purchases

By PHILIP FANGALOS

WILLIAM Cook, the Sheffield steel castings group, achieved another jump in profits in the six months to September 29.

Acquisitions helped pre-tax profits advance 55 per cent to £5.8 million, while turnover surged from £42.6 million to £70.4 million, with about 20 per cent overseas. Trading profits rose from £4.4 million to £6.83 million, but interest jumped from £665,000 to £1.03 million. Gearing stood at 45 per cent.

After a higher tax charge of

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Yorkshire Bank debt provision doubles

BAD debts have doubled at Yorkshire Bank since it was bought by National Australia Bank for almost £1 billion in January. But the bank increased its annualised pre-tax profits by more than 9 per cent in the nine months to end-September. Yorkshire, which is changing its year-end to March to harmonise with NAB, made a profit of £92.1 million (£113 million) and is paying an £18.4 million dividend to NAB.

The bank suffered a £27.4 million bad debts provision, up an annualised 201 per cent from £18.2 million. The biggest provisions were £600,000 to a British & Commonwealth subsidiary and £400,000 to a subsidiary of Rush & Tompkins. The bank has nearly tripled the planned growth in branch network as a result of the takeover from five sites a year.

Smith Estates Sutcliffe sale profits falter to Belgium

THE downturn in the residential property market took its toll on James Smith Estates, the USM-quoted property investment company. Pre-tax profits slipped from £541,000 to £325,000 in the six months to September 24. Earnings per share fell from 2.46p to 2.21p. The interim dividend is raised to 1.1p (1.0p).

Colorgen in profit

COLORGEN, the American supplier of computerised colour matching systems, has returned from the red with a net profit of £18,000 in the year to end-June, against a previous loss of £220,000. Group sales advanced by 29.5 per cent to £50.6 million. Earnings per share stood at 0.11 cent, against a 1.5 cent loss per share last time. Once again, there is no dividend.

Hammerson agrees lease Ashley buys Vertika stake

HAMMERSON Property Investment and Development Corp has signed a 25-year lease with National Power for most of a 155,000 sq ft office development in Queen Victoria Street in the City, for an undisclosed rent. National Power will take £2,500 sq ft of the building, which is due for completion in April.

UniChem's EC move

UNICHEM, the national pharmaceutical wholesaler due to float on the International Stock Exchange this month, is moving into Europe. It has an option on 17 per cent of PAG Pharma-Holding AG, which owns 30 per cent of Anzag, Germany's largest pharmaceutical wholesaler.

Blystad rig sale nets £1m profit

By MARTIN BARROW

BLYSTAD, formerly KCA Drilling, has sold two drilling rigs it owned for six weeks for £11.7 million, yielding a net £1.1 million profit.

The Sanga Sun and Sanga Sky were acquired from Outline. Blystad's interim losses before tax were £130,000 (£1.57 million profit) to end-June, on turnover of £10.9 million (£12.63 million).

The decline follows earlier disposal of rigs. There was a loss of £0.16p (1.58p earnings) a share. No interim dividend is recommended (nil paid).

There is an extraordinary charge of £3.51 million for a terminated agreement.

French sold to Burnfield for £2.55m

By OUR CITY STAFF

BURNFIELD, the specialist heating group, formerly Isopead, is acquiring the surface heating business of Thomas French & Sons for £2.55 million. Burnfield's interim pre-tax profits fell to £551,000 (£702,000) to end-July. Turnover grew to £8.61 million (£6.37 million). Earnings a share fell to 3.4p (3.6p) and fully diluted earnings fell to 3.1p (3.2p). The interim dividend stands at 1.65p.

Thomas French will make a loss in the second half, but expects a small profit for the full year. The pre-tax interim profit was £507,000 (£1.06 million). There will be a 2.175p final dividend.

Betterware to export its selling success

By OUR CITY STAFF

BETTERWARE Consumer Products is planning to export its door-to-door catalogue retailing method to the Continent. Philip Woodcock has been appointed European development director to oversee the launch of a sales operation in France.

The company, which moved from the USM to the main list this year, is expanding after a strong start to the financial year in contrast to high street retailers. Taxable profits

increased by 52 per cent to £1.71 million during the 28 weeks to September 8, on turnover 36 per cent higher at £13.98 million. After adjustment for a one-for-one scrip issue, earnings rose by 51 per cent to 5.5p a share while the interim dividend is increased 25 per cent to 1.35p.

Andrew Cohen, chief executive, said that during the first two months of the second half of the year sales had increased 55 per cent.

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Sir Brian talks as actions speak

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

Oh no, not another committee to look at relationships between shareholders and the companies they own. Sir Brian Corby, president of the CBI, thrilled the conference audience in Glasgow with the news that the great and the good are once again being invited to donate a minute or two from their busy schedules to think about how to improve the links between the two sides.

The president did not want a committee, so the new think-in is labelled a "Steering Group", but the casual observer may have difficulty in making the distinction. Helping the CBI at the helm will be the International Stock Exchange, the Association of British Insurers, the National Association of Pension Funds and the International Fund Managers Association, plus the DTI and the Bank of England.

A group such as that will find it easier to disagree than to reach accord, and it seems likely that anything that can be agreed upon will be so anodyne as to be meaningless. Sir Brian does, of course, mean well but he is in a cleft stick which makes his own

presidency of the CBI interesting, if not contradictory. Sir Brian, who spent 30 years inching his way to the top of the Prudential, is by experience more an investor than an industrialist. At the CBI he has to straddle an uncomfortable divide between industry and investor. His experience of largely passive portfolio investment must be invaluable to the CBI's industrial membership, but his loyalties are likely to be divided.

But he is well aware that the phrase "corporate governance" is increasingly cropping up at City lunch tables, and this is one of the facets of industrial life that Sir Brian's steering group will be examining. In the last week or two we have seen a couple of examples of institutions exercising their "corporate governance" by forcing from office senior executives who combined the roles of chairman and chief executive and then failed to deliver. A group of institutions is

requisitioning an extraordinary meeting of Savage Group to force out three directors and appoint their own nominees. Other senior executives who have combined the role are lined up in the institutions' sights, and fingers are itching on the trigger.

Industry needs no steering group, in the wake of those executives, to see the point. Actions have spoken, words are unnecessary. Similarly, the institutions seem to know what they mean by "corporate governance". They want their own man on the board of a company to control, and if necessary sack, the chief executive. The cleanest and simplest way is for the chairman to be responsible to the shareholders, and the manage-

ment responsible to the board. Funny enough, as Sir Brian made clear in his speech, he is quite aware of that. So why does he need a steering committee to state the obvious?

Unity funded

The modest rise in unified Germany's monthly trade surplus in September must not be misread as a sign that Europe's economic superstar can avoid the rapid deterioration in its balance of payments that is taking on a crumbling East Germany was bound to cause.

The forecasters are still looking for the pan-German current account surplus to be more than

halved by next year from last year's DM105 billion, as more of western German production is directed away from exports towards the troubled former command economy to the east.

Exports from east German industry are meanwhile expected to collapse by next year, as orders signed under the old regime peter out. But for all the trouble and cost of unification, the strength of former West Germany will allow it to continue to run handsome trade surpluses by any standards.

But what of the bill? Critics of the Bonn government claim that in the rush for unity the impact on the German taxpayer was underestimated. Tax increases would have to follow. Theo Waigel, finance minister, disagrees.

While readily acknowledging that the public sector deficit will probably widen next year from this year's DM105 billion, he yesterday told an audience of tax

advisers that talk of tax increases was uncalled for. There would, however, be no scope for reducing taxes as a proportion of the gross domestic product below its present 22.5 per cent, its lowest since the late 1950s.

These are not just promises ahead of the all-German elections in December, or commitments along the lines of President Bush's "read my lips" pledge. Bonn has a better record on delivering the beef. Tax revenues should start to improve next year, as turnaround in east Germany starts to make itself felt. Herr Waigel is also believed to be planning cuts in federal spending of up to DM40 billion next year, to remove some of the DM100 billion increase in the federal budget this year.

These cuts will not remove the need for increased federal borrowing, which this year jumped a huge DM47 billion to close to DM67 billion. No problem. Continued German surpluses on its external balances, plus the nation's renowned thriftiness, mean Germany can finance its unity quite happily thank you.

Bitter sweet shadow of Berisford clouds ABF

TEMPUS



Window of opportunity: Terry Royden

THE corporate disaster area politely known as Berisford International casts a long shadow over Associated British Foods, its 24 per cent holder.

At present the stake is in ABF's books at about £133 million. But at current prices there is an unrealised loss on the holding of about £100 million. ABF has taken no steps to adjust its balance sheet and will wait until the end of the financial year before taking a view.

By then, the stake may have risen in value due to the auction for British Sugar, Berisford's prize asset, where ABF may bid. The monopolies commission is examining a Tate & Lyle offer and is due to report in January.

While a £100 million write-down would not even dent ABF's balance sheet, its earnings prospects are clouded by the possibility that it may own British Sugar next year. Meanwhile, it received no Berisford interim dividend, which in the first half of last year was £2.7 million. In the full year it will be more significant, as the final dividend to ABF totalled £6.5 million last year.

Half-year trading results were distorted by non-trading items. The 19 per cent rise from £111 million to £132 million looked healthy enough but £18 million of the £21 million rise came from net interest receipts.

Last year's first-half included only three months of income on the sale proceeds of ABF's former holding in Gateway. This year's interim were flattered by a full six months.

Trading was tough, with domestic bread markets and trading profits a mere £2.8 million up at £66.9 million. The full year is likely to bring a modest pre-tax gain from £289 million to about £310 million putting the shares on an 8.5 per cent/earnings multiple. The shares are a hold until the Berisford issues are resolved.

Prowling

THE housebuilding sector has produced so many truly appalling results that the sight of a profitable survivor is enough to raise a hearty cheer. Prowling is such a survivor. Pre-tax profits of £5 million in the six months to end-August may be 48 per cent down on

last year, but they are still profits. The dividend is held at 1.7p, and is still covered 2.8 times.

Prowling's strength lay, like some of its fellow builders, in its long-established land bank. Since it did not have to grab land at the height of the market to satisfy rampant demand, it still had a chair when the music stopped. The company's borrowings of £26.9 million give it a gearing

of just 35 per cent, in spite of a £7 million tax bill in July. The £1.81 million interest charge is covered a manageable 3.8 times.

Terry Royden, the chief executive, believes the company can break even on 220 sales a year. This year it should make 300, down from 700 at the peak.

Meantime, Prowling's land bank of 5,200 units with planning permission provides

an interesting asset play. These are in the books at £16,000 apiece, but even in today's depressed market are worth nearer £30,000. The company's stated net assets are £76 million. On a full valuation this is nearer £150 million compared to a market capitalisation, on a share price of 153p, of £96.4 million.

On profits of £8.25 million this year, the price/earnings ratio of 20 makes Prowling look fully valued, but they should certainly be held.

Renold

THIS time last year, Renold reported a 72 per cent rise in interim profits and a 50 per cent dividend increase. At the full-year, profits were still 32 per cent higher and even though the board suggested slower trading at the annual meeting in July no indication was given about the extent of the shortfall.

That is why the City greeted a 47.5 per cent fall in taxable profits at the interim stage to just £2.1 million and earnings of 1.9p a share, against 4.6p, with dismay and the shares fell to a new low of 57p. Only a maintained dividend of 1.2p prevented further damage.

A full-blooded recession is developing and any company which suggests that profits are unlikely to recover until late in the next financial year should expect to be hit hard.

In the current year, profits could fall from £9.5 million before tax to just £5 million. Earnings will fall more sharply from 10.6p a share to 5.3p as a consequence of a higher tax charge which will reflect a greater percentage of earnings from outside Britain.

The plus for shareholders is that the decline is not wholly attributable to a slump in demand for industrial chains and switching gear. The company has been busy restructuring operations in Britain, Germany and France and in the longer-term substantial cost benefits are anticipated.

The shares trade on a prospective price earnings ratio of 11 and on fundamentals should remain moribund until well into next year.

At this level, the company may look attractive to better-placed predators banking on a recovery but investors should not hold their breath.

Operating profit expected at Airbus

AIRBUS Industrie, the consortium of four European aircraft companies, expects to make its first operating profit this year.

Its newsletter said yesterday it would be the result of increased income, through more aircraft orders and deliveries, plus a reduction in costs.

The newsletter said: "The increase in orders is, in turn, a consequence of the consortium's recently completed aircraft family - and hence its presence in market segments from which it was previously excluded - as well as of the continued buoyant market for airliner sales." Airbus said the profit, of which no figure was mentioned, would be shared among its four partners. France's Aerospatiale and West Germany's Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm each have a 38 per cent stake. British Aerospace has 20 per cent and CASA of Spain 4 per cent.

Airbus said it won firm orders for 254 aircraft during the first nine months of the year against 310 in the corresponding period of 1989.

But it added: "The market remains buoyant and Airbus Industrie now expects to conclude the year with total sales of more than 350 aircraft."

Banker replaces Elliott as chairman of Elders

JOHN Elliott, the chairman of Elders IXL, the Australian brewer, has been replaced by Nobby Clark, the former managing director of National Australia Bank.

The directors' move was part of a shake-up of the board after the arrival of Asahi, the Japanese brewer, as a shareholder. It reflects the reduced influence of Hartin Holdings, the parent company.

The board will have three Hartin and two Asahi representatives, plus five others, including Mr Clark and another independent director who is expected to be named shortly.

Mr Elliott will be deputy chairman and act as a consultant to the chairman and the board.

The stock market responded by pushing Elders' price up 15 cents to Aus\$1.34 (53p).

Analysts said the rise was also a response to Asahi's formal deal with Hartin to buy a further 17 per cent of Elders, taking its holding to 19.9 per cent.

Asahi's representatives on the Elders board will be Takemasa Yoneyama, its executive vice-president, and Koichiro Iwaki, its senior managing director.

Confirmation of the Hartin-Asahi deal also meant Elders



Victim of the board shake-up: John Elliott

had to sell part of its stake in SA Brewing Holdings.

Asahi would have had problems with the foreign ownership provisions of the Broadcasting Act as Elders had an 18.4 per cent stake in SA Brewing, which has a 17 per cent stake in Austereo, the radio broadcaster.

Elders said it had sold 14 million SA brewing shares at Aus\$2.32 each, reducing its stake to just under 15 per cent. It is believed to have made a profit of Aus\$5.6 million.

Mr Clark, who said he was "delighted" to join the Elders

board, said Elders, which is to be renamed Fosters Brewing Group, would show it had been over-sold by the market after its restructuring into a single-purpose brewer. He said the board and management restructuring would underpin the job for the next two years.

He added: "Fosters has an exciting future open to it as one of the world's finest brewing companies."

Brian BUCHANAN
Sydney

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Garban date for Dickie

THE commission war in the inter-dealer broker market continues. Garban, one of Britain's biggest IDB firms, run by Stephen Raven - chairman of the international markets committee of the International Stock Exchange and also a member of its membership and settlement services committees - has stepped up the pressure by hand-picking the best personnel from its rivals. Its latest catch is Richard "Dickie" Armour, aged 25, a founder employee of First Equity and acknowledged as its most senior broker. Armour, who has never lived down the fact that he starred in *Blind Date*, the television programme, last Christmas, previously worked for UBS Phillips & Drew and is due to join Garban in December. "It is quite a coup," says a delighted Raven. "It is part of our programme to take what we perceive as being the best people from the other IDBs. We have been identifying individuals and then persuading them to join us."

Broking bubbles

LLOYD's brokers plagued by talk of war, hurricanes and asbestos will soon be able to drown their sorrows within the safety of their own building. For Corney & Barrow, known in the Square Mile for its fine wines, has won a contract to open the first champagne bar at Number One, Lime Street. The bar,

which opens in February on the site of the former Lloyd's coffee shop, will be fitted with internal telephones and a television paging system to keep brokers in touch with the outside world. "It will be the only part of the building open to the public," says Chris Brown, managing director of Corney & Barrow, who adds that up to 10,000 people pass through Lloyd's on a busy day. Despite the imminent rise in the price of champagne - by as much as 30 per cent on a bottle or glass - Brown expects to do a roaring trade. He has even bought in a number of jerochoams of Louis Roederer Brut Premier, which retail at £99.50 each, so the Lloyd's men can continue to celebrate successful business deals in customary style.

Sun goddess

A GOOD tailor, as every City gent has always known, can make all the difference when it comes to clinching a deal. That has clearly not been lost on Hoare Govett, which is setting out to become one of the most fashion-conscious houses in the Square Mile. Taking on the challenge for the firm, all but single-handedly, is Felicity Elacombe, a UK equity saleswoman, who is, it seems, a self-appointed arbiter of style. Elacombe, aged 34, who was recently promoted to the position of director, now sits at the left hand of Geoff Houston, head of UK equity sales. She has invited 15 of her best female clients to an evening at Harrods to teach

them the finer points of power dressing. Fashion aside, Elacombe is taking her new job equally seriously. When asked by a colleague whether she would now be dealing on a daily basis, she was heard to reply: "Does the sun rise?"

THE circulation manager of an American magazine, *Down East*, wrote to an *Abner Mason* notifying him that his subscription had expired. The notice was returned a few days later with the message: "So's Abner."

Brain power

NATIONAL Power, the larger of Britain's two generators, had an additional reason to celebrate last week when a team led by Granville Camsey, a director, won a general knowledge and intelligence quiz at the Guildhall organised on behalf of Age Concern, the charity. Among the 31 teams they defeated were PowerGen, their rival in the generation game, and Hanson, which itself tried to break into that market this summer.

CLASSIFIED advertisement in a weekly newspaper in Bendigo, Victoria, Australia. "Two extra good registered Hereford bulls for sale or trade. Must see, or be a cow, to appreciate." Or possibly a bear....

Lady Howe's role

LADY (Elspeth) Howe was keeping her peace yesterday as she watched Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, defend the government's position on Europe at the Confederation of British Industry conference

in Glasgow. The wife of Sir Geoffrey Howe, whose resignation as deputy prime minister highlighted divisions within the Tory ranks over Europe, was there as a director of Kingfisher. Lady Howe's role last night was however more discreet, at a healing wounds than inflicting them as she attended a reception to launch a Kingfisher document on social responsibility.

Cross-border break

THE gloomy outlook for British companies has not prevented BZW from pressing ahead with plans to expand its corporate finance division. One of its latest recruits is Adam de Courcy Ling, formerly resident London partner of the Matuschka Group, the German mergers and acquisitions house, who has been made a director of BZW corporate finance. De Courcy Ling, aged 30, who joined the firm yesterday, has spent the past eight years working for a number of German companies, and since he will be responsible for cross-border mergers and acquisitions work in Germany he has gone on a business trip there with Graham Pymott, chief executive of BZW corporate finance. The group has also strengthened its hand in France by luring two corporate financiers from a rival house in Paris, Bertrand Poplu and Michel Tiroulet, formerly with Merrill Lynch, have joined Thierry Varcne at Compagnie Financière BZW.

CAROL LEONARD

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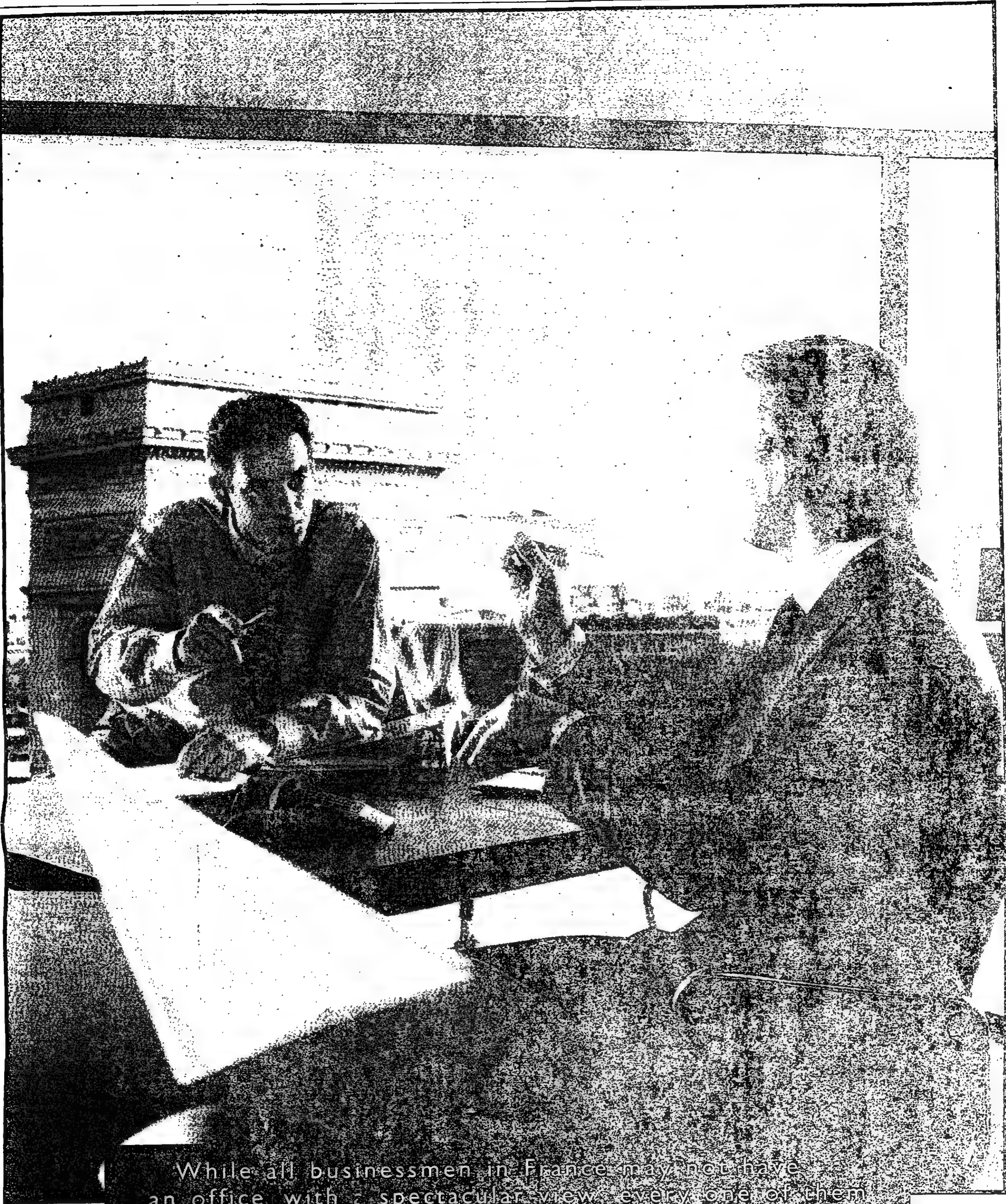
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1975	224	227	-3	21.0	9.3	4.9
1974	195	196	-1	19.0	10.1	4.3
1973	197	201	-4	19.7	10.1	3.4
1972	197	231	-34	19.3	10.1	3.7
1971	220	230	-10	22.4	9.1	5.8
1970	203	203	0	22.4	9.5	3.8
1969	177	222	-45	22.4	9.7	2.7
1968	224	228	-4	20.6	9.1	4.9
Package list	12198		-67			

● Ex dividend ● Ex all ● Forecast dividend ● Interim payment passed ● Price at suspension ● Dividend and yield exclude a special payment ● Pre-merger figures ● Forecast earnings ● Ex other ● Ex rights ● Ex scrip or share split ● Tax-free ... No significant data

Consumers assured of the benefits of change

Insurers may have to merge to survive the stiff competition that will come with a single European market, Wolfgang Münchau writes

Of all industries, insurance is one of the least "European" in nature. Different regulations exist for every country, and this is unlikely to change even when the single market comes into effect.

Yet, during the next five years, the European insurance industry will go through drastic change as it becomes more competitive.

The change will be partly a reflection of directives, issued by the European Commission, which try to level the European market-place, but to a greater extent, a result of trends that are already apparent in Europe. For the industry, the new trend will mean lower margins, which can at best be compensated for by increased business volume. For the consumer, it will mean a better choice and lower premiums. One of the commission's directives, already implemented, concerns large risks, which comprise the only genuinely European insurance business. The other directive allows Europeans to buy non-life personal insurance products anywhere in the European Community, although companies are still prevented from marketing products abroad unless they have permission from the relevant national authority. On their own, however, the two directives, and the few that are to follow, are hardly the stuff that can shake up an entire industry.

Britain has traditionally been Europe's most liberal insurance market, but it is far from clear whether British insurance companies and Lloyd's, the international insurance market based in London, will benefit from the changes ahead.

British companies have a mainly domestic outlook, and

they often lack the relevant experience for continental market conditions, and, in many cases, the capital required to set up an operation, or to make an acquisition, in Europe.

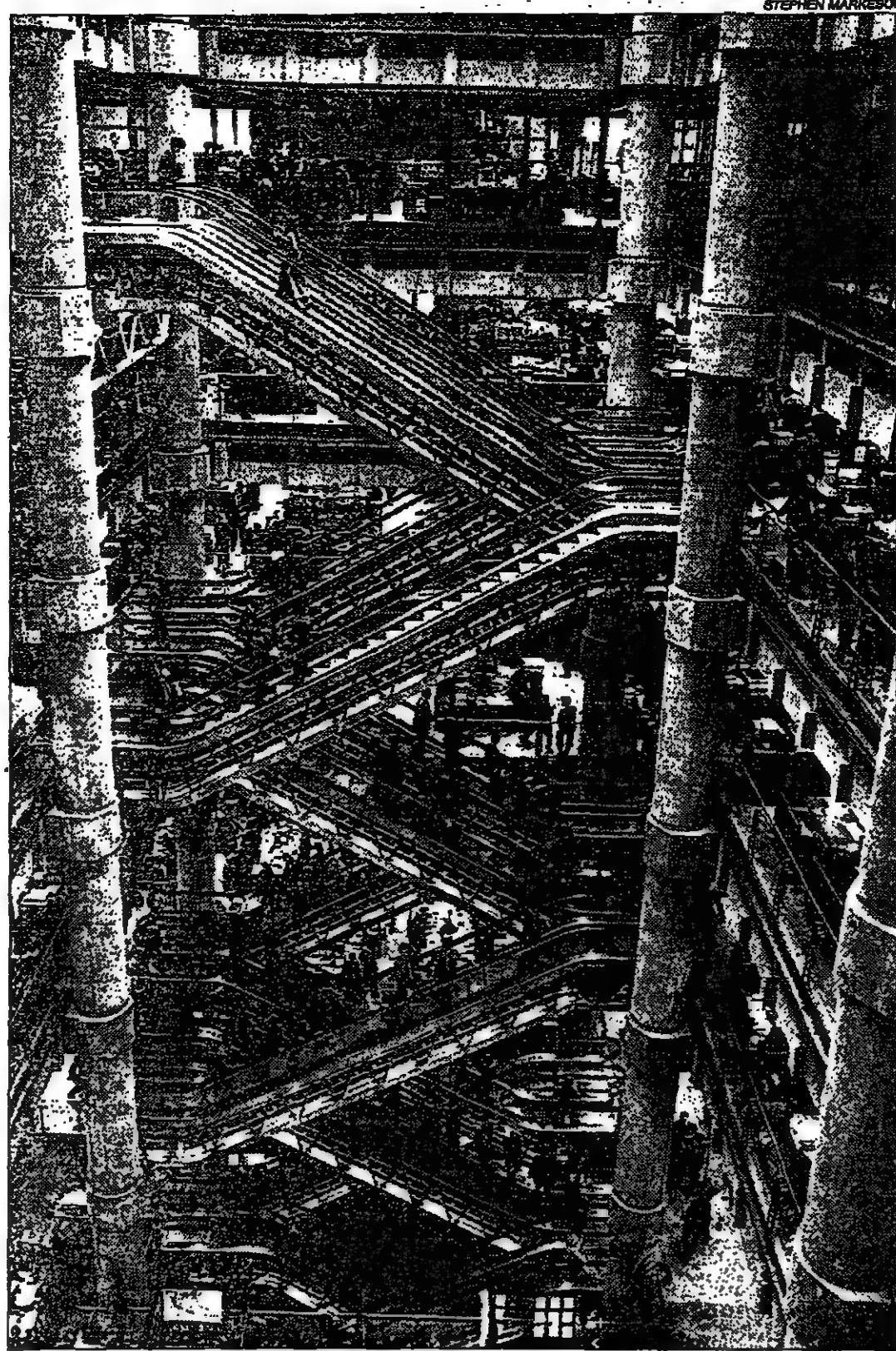
Germany, by contrast, has traditionally been one of Europe's most protected markets. Regulated by the Bundesversicherungsamt für das Versicherungswesen, the Berlin-based authority, insurance represented more a cartel than a genuinely competitive industry.

German insurance, however, is changing. Allianz, the largest insurer in Europe, is breaking out of the cartel. It has made many acquisitions recently, including the Firemen's Fund in the United States, and, most notably, the former East German insurance monopoly, a move that is already beginning to tilt the delicate balance of the industry. Price competition, unheard of before, is now playing a larger part. The smaller companies are at risk, not merely in Germany, but everywhere in Europe. It is a process, however, which seems to occur if profit margins decline under a process of deregulation.

Another aggressive participant will be the largest French insurance company, Union des Assurances de Paris (UAP), which is state-owned, but will probably be one of the first privatisation targets in a post-socialist French government. UAP's market share in Europe is only half that of Allianz, but it has ambitions to be as large as its German rival. Allianz, of course, will also grow and, some have speculated, this may occur through the acquisition of a British life insurance company.

Assicurazioni Generali, of Italy, is another leading participant

'It is far from clear whether Britain's insurance companies will benefit from the changes that lie ahead'



A leading player: Lloyd's, the world's largest insurance market, is already gearing up for the changes

eager to improve its market position, perhaps through a link-up with a French company, Zurich Insurance, Europe's second largest group, has also left no doubt about its intention to buy up smaller to medium-sized companies.

Ironically, the decades during which Europe's insurers enjoyed protection have left the continental companies at an advantage. There was never a need to please shareholders, eager for ever higher dividends. Instead, the larger and some of the medium-sized companies are entering the new, and

more competitive, decade with their baby fat intact.

The insurance industry of the Nineties will be made up mainly of a group of five or more large companies: one each in Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy and perhaps Britain. There will be a second tier, and then a dwindling number of medium-sized niche companies. Many of the smaller companies will disappear.

Yet, while the structure of the industry will become more European in the next five years, the markets will remain national in

outlook. Allianz might, by then, own a British life insurance company, and the Prudential may be well established on the continent, but they are likely still to offer a British product in Britain and a French product in France.

Life insurance, which makes up about half the industry, is often linked to national social security systems, which, despite the EC's social harmonisation programmes, are unlikely to be standardised for many years.

● The author is the European Business Correspondent of The Times.

Europe shops for the right policy

EC residents will be able to get quotations in any member state as restrictions are lifted

After years in the European Community's slow lane, policy-making on insurance is finally picking up speed (Peter Guilford writes). This is thanks to more flexible methods of overcoming the legal differences between member states, and to a renewed feeling among the more protectionist countries that the benefits of a free insurance trade will eventually outweigh the snags.

Action on insurance, however, still lags behind moves to deregulate community trade in other financial services, notably banking, for which agreement has already been reached on a single barrier-free market across the whole community.

The momentum behind insurance deregulation is due, in no small measure, to the EC's most energetic evangelist for the free market, Sir Leon Brittan, who

resilience and openness of the German economy. The community's southern flank fears its markets may be swamped by strong companies from the north, and has won substantial periods of grace in several areas.

The thrust of the commission's policy is to ensure that minimum levels of protection exist for the policyholder — and that every country trusts the rules of all 11 others — and then to throw the community market open to free competition. Theoretically, the policyholder will be free to shop around all 12 countries for the policy whose terms and prices suit him best. Companies will have to compete more fiercely than ever before for his custom.

Under the single European insurance market set for 1993, a reputable insurer would no longer need authorisation (frequently



Sir Leon: a liberal line

protectionism in disguise) in every country where he chose to sell policies. A "single passport" issued in his home country would suffice.

Brussels has, however, drawn an important distinction between small-time and big-time (or "mass-risk" and "large-risk") policyholders. For the time being, governments may still "protect" their citizens from buying policies abroad, while large companies can insure themselves more freely all over the community. This has removed a serious stumbling block to negotiations, but Sir Leon hopes eventually to banish the distinction.

Many of the building blocks for a single market in health, fire, motor and other "non-life" insurance policies are now in place, whereas more controversial plans, such as deregulating life insurance, are still on the commission's drawing boards. Independent estimates indicate that the value of life insurance in different countries varies widely, with the Portuguese effectively paying ten times more to insure themselves than the British.

Life insurance prides at the heart of national sovereignty, touching on guarded government areas such as taxation, social security and workers' rights. Brussels has shifted many national obstacles to a free insurance market, but it knows that life insurance will be its biggest fight yet.

UNTIL recently, few businesses in Germany would open up to working in insurance. The scorn with which the industry is widely regarded stems from the fact that insurance has never enjoyed the reputation of a "proper" business. It has traditionally been viewed as somewhat shady (Wolfgang Münchau writes).

This is in part because the structure of the industry, which is regulated by the Bundesversicherungsamt für das Versicherungswesen. Compared with Britain, insurance, particularly life insurance, has been much less competitive, and the companies protected themselves against takeovers through an intricate network of cross-shareholdings.

Moreover, the Bundesversicherungsamt stipulated that almost all profits be returned to the policyholders, which meant that insurance companies had little incentive to maximise profits for their shareholders. As a result, even regional affiliates of the larger companies boast impressive office towers, while the generally cautious German accounting principles have been applied vigorously.

The good old days are fast disappearing. Allianz, the country's and Europe's largest insurer, based in Munich, has left no doubt about its international intentions. At a single stroke, it has secured the majority of the old East German state insurance monopoly. Analysts believe that the move might depress profits for two or three years, but Wolfgang Schieren, the company's chief executive, says

German predator shakes up industry



Herr Schieren: long term

Allianz moved there for the long term. Allianz's market share in Germany is about 15 per cent. Analysts in London fear that the company's new, more aggressive policy, and the arrival of sometimes ruinous price competition is about to change business culture.

Michael Hutter, a European insurance analyst at BNP Securities, a London broker, says: "The big issue is that Allianz is behaving as if it were in the Wild West. They have introduced the concept of competition. The stable margins and the established distribution networks will all go out of the window." Policyholders will benefit, but not insurance companies.

Competition is fiercest in the commercial large-risk market. Here Mr Hutter believes that the premiums are "30 per cent below what they should be". It is likely that the Bundesversicherungsamt will soon end this by forcing insurance companies to split accounts for personal and commercial business to avoid cross-subsidies. At present, the small man subsidises the risk of the big one.

The other development that will sharpen competition in Germany is the arrival of the banks. Dresdner Bank and Allianz have formed a strategic alliance in some of the Länder, by which Dresdner Bank distributes insurance policies through its branch network. This move is one of the most significant changes to the distribution part of the business, which has long been dominated by the foot-in-the-door insurance salesman. Banks may soon offer their own insurance policies.

Most insurance companies have used the years in which they were protected against real competition to their advantage. Reserves are generally large. The capital base behind German insurance companies will also be their greatest asset in the consolidation process widely expected to take place in the European insurance industry.

Germany is the European country in which this radical change is most evident. Allianz is likely to emerge as the most aggressive predator. It already owns Cornhill Insurance, and in 1986 it attempted an ill-fated bid for Eagle Star.

British plan continental niche

Getting a foot in the door across the Channel is difficult, but lucrative

The advent of the single European market has presented Britain's insurers with a problem. All agree they should expand on to the Continent, and believe they can offer attractive products. The government and the trade department have exhorted life insurers to cross the Channel (Neil Bennett writes).

The prospects do appear. Even in developed life assurance markets, products are surprisingly unsophisticated. Unit-linked policies, for example, are almost unheard of in Germany. In much of southern Europe, life assurance investment is still in its infancy.

While there are opportunities, however, in both life and non-life markets, insurers are finding them difficult to exploit. After a series of heavy claims and poor results, most British companies have neither the will, nor the resources, to look for expensive continental acquisitions. The alternative is to set up greenfield operations and expand them organically, but insurers are then faced with the problems of distribution.

Without an effective sales force, it is futile for newcomers, no matter how superior their products, to compete against the established national insurers.

The largest British-controlled insurers in continental Europe are Delta Lloyd in The Netherlands, part of Commercial Union, and Albion, Guardian Royal Exchange's subsidiary in Germany. Both supply between 10 and 15 per cent of their parent's premium income. However, neither company is the spearhead of a recent decision to expand on to the Continent. They were acquired before a single European market was even a concept.

Commercial Union is the most European-minded of the British composites, apart from Delta Lloyd, which is the third largest Dutch insurer. Commercial Union bought L'Epargne de France, a life insurer and savings group, in 1984 and since then it has formed a policy of no acquisitions, instead opening new subsidiaries in Spain, Italy and Greece.

Commercial Union is also trying to establish a strong distribution network for its subsidiaries through a series of strategic alliances. Last year, it signed an agreement with Credito Italiano, the Italian bank, to offer life and non-life policies through the latter's 503 branches. It is also selling policies through Credit Maritime in France.

Other continental ventures



The risks of Europe: GRE lost \$46 million after investing in Italian motor insurance

have been disastrous. Last year, GRE bought a half-share of Sides and Cipea, two Italian motor insurers, for £27 million. They lost £19.7 million, and this increased to £46 million in the first half of 1990, after GRE discovered a £30 million shortfall in the companies' reserves.

Some insurers are already in retreat. Last month, Eagle Star announced it was selling its French, non-life insurance subsidiary, Eagle Star France, earned annual premiums of £24 million, but with a consistent loss-maker. Eagle Star blamed intense competition. Given the pitfalls of acquisitions, composites are trying to find a lower-cost route

to continental customers. In June, Sun Alliance and several underwriting syndicates in Lloyd's insurance market formed a joint venture called Eurosure. This is designed to take advantage of the EC's second non-life insurance directive, which came into force at the beginning of July.

The directive allows all European businesses with a balance-sheet of more than £24 million (€8.68 million) and at least 500 employees to buy insurance anywhere in the community, as part of the EC's policy of freedom of services. Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Spain are exempted for several years. Eurosure will be marketed

through Lloyd's largest brokers, including Sedgwick and Willis Faber & Dumas. Despite this, it expects to take premiums of only £50 million in the next three years, which is insignificant in terms of the size of the market.

Eurosure is an implicit admission by Lloyd's that its continental European business is too small. Only 10 per cent of the £5.25 billion of market premiums last year came from the Continent, a quarter the size of business from America. In addition, more than half of this was introduced as reinsurance for large continental groups. But Lloyd's believes it can play a niche role in Europe.

Years of frenzied growth have put French insurers in a strong competitive position

Ambitious French equip for success

dependence to the far-reaching Groupe Suez last year.

The French have also extended their influence overseas through substantial minority stakes. Union des Assurances de Paris (UAP) holds 25 per cent of Sun Life in Britain, and 32 per cent of Royale Belge. Suez has 25 per cent of Balica Holding, Denmark's largest insurer.

Senior industry figures think that the state of domestic mergers and takeovers has ended for now, but there is still one potential conflict to be resolved. UAP, the largest state-controlled group, has a 34 per cent minority stake in Victoire, and is a constant thorn in Suez's side. Jean

Peyrelevade, UAP's chairman, naturally wants to benefit from such a significant asset, and has said he wants to co-operate with the group once it has digested Colonia fully.

Victoire and Suez seem unhappy, however, to be so close to their largest competitor, and Suez insists it will retain a minimum 50 per cent stake. The situation could be resolved by Gerard Woons, the Suez chairman appointed last month.

The corporate manoeuvres have slowed down this year while the insurance groups recover from heavy underwriting losses from the storms that swept northern France in

January. The decline in world equity markets has hit the groups' unrealised capital gains, and made it more difficult to raise new funding.

The insurers are also seeing a slowdown in the frenzied growth of the French life assurance market, which grew by 35 per cent a year in the mid Eighties. This year it is estimated to expand by only 15 per cent to about 215 billion francs (£21.5 billion), because of competition from the government's new Plan d'Epargne Populaire, a tax-efficient savings scheme. The rate of growth is still more than 10 per cent above the French inflation figure, and gives muscle to the insurers.

managed funds. So, Mr Peyrelevade and his competitors are still looking to the main chance. The UAP chairman said last month that he is negotiating a possible link-up with two American groups and one European or South African group. This could accomplish his goal of matching the strength of Allianz, the German insurer. UAP, with 1.5 per cent of the European market, is only half Allianz's size.

The philosophy remains among French insurers that big is beautiful. One of its greatest exponents is Claude Bébéar, the chairman of Axa-Midi. "Our priority is not to buy something in the next

three months," he says. "But it is to double the size of our business in the next five years." This would make Axa the fifteenth largest insurance group in the world.

To do good business you have to be a leader and you have to be international. If you are too small you cannot recruit good people, advertise or things like that. I was small when I started, and so I know what it is like.

"My concern is the big Japanese companies. It will be difficult to survive against them unless we are large. Not today, not immediately. I can retire without any problem, but if I want to leave a secure business, I have to grow."

This year Axa failed in its £2.5 billion bid for Farmers, the Californian insurer, which was part of Sir James Goldsmith's attempt to break up BAT Industries, but Mr Bébéar is clearly undaunted.

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GREIG FESTER

FRENCH insurers are unrivalled in Europe for their aggression and ambition. The large groups have committed themselves to dominating their home market and competing effectively in Europe, often from a very modest base (Neil Bennett writes).

This year, however, the industry has paused for breath, following three years of complex acquisitions that have reshaped France's domestic market and given the leading insurance groups a substantial market share overseas.

The process started in 1987, with Compagnie du Midi's acquisition of Equi & Law. A year later, Compagnie du Midi became a takeover victim itself, as Axa Group won control. Meanwhile, Victoire furthered its ambitions by buying the German Colonia Group, before losing its in-

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and openness of the southern flank to the Atlantic. The only companies from the north that were substantial players in the coal trade, the *Union* and the *Consolidation*, had to renege that promise. The rule of the *Union* was to throw open the market to the *Consolidation*, but the latter would not be so forthcoming. The *Consolidation* was to open the market to the *Union*, but the latter would not be so forthcoming. The *Consolidation* was to open the market to the *Union*, but the latter would not be so forthcoming.

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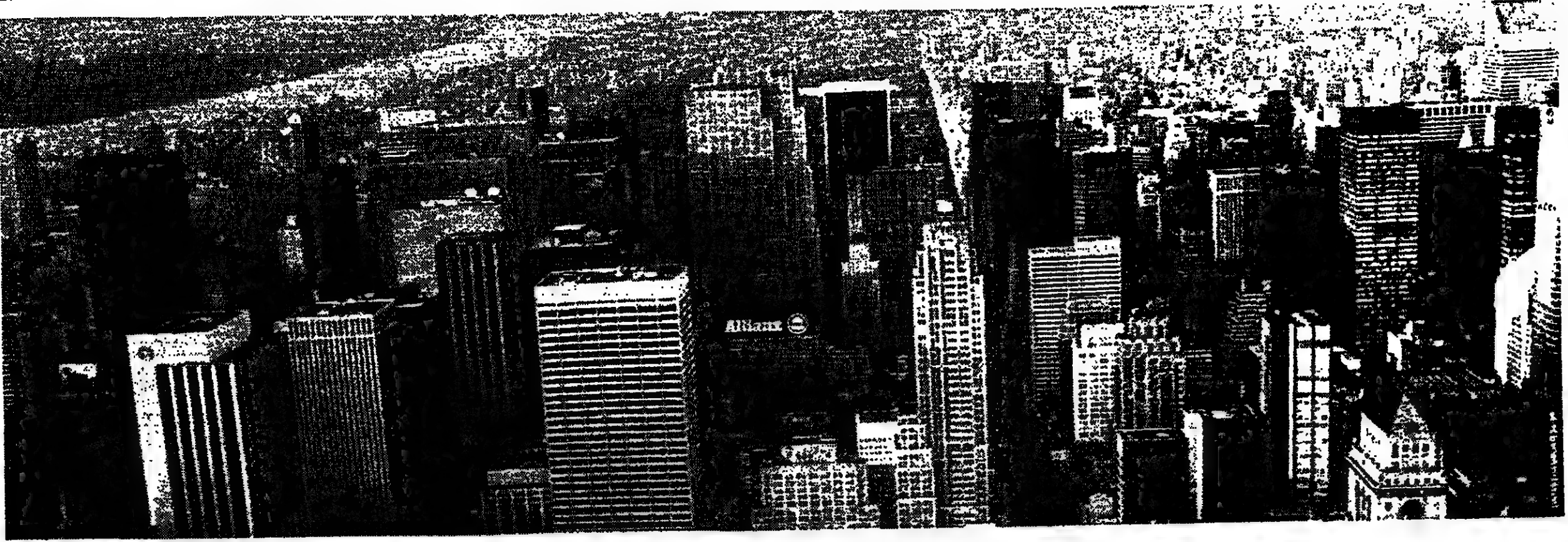
1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

2. Once the problem is identified, the next step is to define the objectives and goals of the project. This helps to clarify what needs to be achieved and provides a clear direction for the work.

3. The third step is to develop a plan or strategy to address the problem. This involves breaking down the problem into smaller, manageable tasks and determining the resources needed to complete them.

4. The fourth step is to implement the plan. This involves putting the strategy into action and monitoring progress to ensure that the objectives are being met.

5. Finally, the fifth step is to evaluate the results of the project. This involves assessing the outcomes against the objectives and identifying any areas for improvement or further action.



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Gnomes of Zurich go doorstepping

Switzerland is an insurance salesman's dream. The Swiss spend more on insurance as a percentage of gross national product than any other people in the world. Last year, total premium incomes in the republic amounted to about 50 billion Swiss francs (£20 billion). Switzerland, although one of Europe's smallest countries, accounts for an extraordinary 12 per cent of Europe's insurance market.

The Swiss insurance market, however, is far from saturated. Percentage growth for the industry has remained in double figures.

The country has two of Europe's top ten insurance companies, Zurich Insurance and Winterthur, and 120 smaller insurance companies. Despite their strong home base, Swiss insurance companies have traditionally been very active abroad. Insurance premium income from foreign operations, including those of foreign subsidiaries, is believed to be worth more than 40 billion Swiss francs (£16 billion).

By contrast, only a few foreign companies are active in the Swiss market, and they

The Swiss hope to persuade other Europeans to buy as much insurance as they do, Wolfgang Münchau writes

account for only 2 per cent of premiums.

Although Switzerland is still wary of joining the European Community, it has been eager to come to an insurance agreement with the EC. Last year, the Swiss signed an insurance treaty with the community, which will come into force in 1993, the first year of the single internal market. The treaty is not a genuine free-trade deal, but allows Swiss companies to set up offices throughout the community, while EC companies will have the same right in Switzerland.

The opening of the Swiss market to foreign companies is likely, however, to lead to profound changes in the Swiss industry. Rolf Hüppi, the chief general manager of Zurich Insurance, the country's largest insurance company, believes that small insurance companies might not survive in the new era.

"I believe that the same rules will apply to small Swiss insurance companies as to small companies throughout Europe," he says. "I do not believe that Switzerland can survive as an insurance island. But then, Switzerland has a few internationally-orientated insurance companies, able to operate in the European market, that have learnt to adjust."

The problems will be similar to those faced by small companies elsewhere. Greater competition, initially in non-life business in particular, will lead to lower margins. The large companies will want to compensate for the shortfall with higher volumes, which will often be achieved only by means of takeovers.

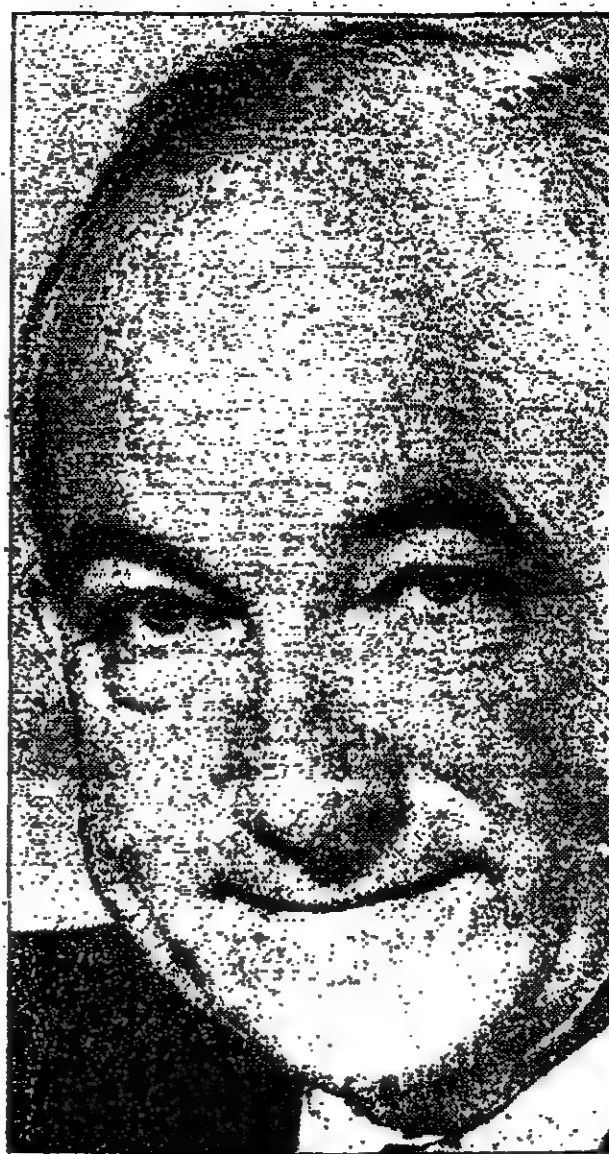
Both Winterthur and Zurich Insurance believe, probably more than most EC insurers, in pan-European insurance services. Winterthur has a special European operation in Belgium, where the aim is

to sell international insurance products to international clients. The opening of the large risk market to genuine Europe-wide competition makes this type of operation possible.

Herr Hüppi pursues a similar strategy. "One of the great challenges of deregulation is the opportunity to become active on a Europe-wide basis," he says. "To achieve that, I need a network of distribution systems through the European economic zone. Then I shall be able to sell a German product to a German client from London."

One distinctive feature of all Swiss insurers is their long-term business outlook, which is particularly relevant to their involvement in eastern Europe. Zurich Insurance was the first foreign company to obtain an insurance licence in Hungary, but, even then, the company chose to co-operate with a local company, rather than to pursue an aggressive marketing strategy.

The Swiss approach to insurance has traditionally been unaggressive. With falling margins throughout the industry, however, and more competition, that may change.



Rolf Hüppi: network of systems throughout Europe

Italy looks on life's bright side in lean times

Britons spend three times as much on insurance as the optimistic Italians

The head of Italy's largest insurance company declared recently: "We are in the years of the lean line." Enrico Randone, chairman of Assicurazioni Generali, was referring, not to the Chinese calendar, but to the biblical dream in which seven lean cows were a harbinger of famine.

Italy's insurance companies have escaped the storms that hit northern Europe, but they have had operational losses in most sectors, except life. The motor sector has been particularly badly hit.

Italians spend 66 per cent less than Britons, per head of the population, on insurance.

Assicurazioni Generali, which has its headquarters in Trieste — the birthplace of Italian insurance — is the fifth largest insurance company in Europe, coming after Allianz of Germany, Zurich Insurance, Union des Assurances de Paris and the Prudential. Founded 159 years ago at the time of the Austro-Hungarian empire, it

with most people of a certain social level holding a policy.

"There is now a good, but no longer extraordinary, rate of profitability," he says. "I think this will be so for the next few years."

Overall, the Italian market is dominated by big groups. Last year, the first ten of 235 authorised companies collected about half of total premium income of 29,696 billion lire (£13.5 billion). Generali was first, both overall (premium income 2,894 billion lire, or £1.3 billion), and in the non-life sectors (premiums 1,934 billion lire, or £879 million).

Among the first ten are two companies founded in Trieste, but now foreign-owned. Second behind Generali is Rinnione Adriatica di Sicurtà (RAS), part of the Allianz group. Lloyd Adriatico, seventh, belongs to Swiss Re.

Istituto Nazionale Assicurazioni (INA), a life specialist, and Assitalia, its non-life associate, fourth and fifth respectively in the general classification, are owned by the state. INA benefits from a provision that other companies must re-insure with it a proportion of the life business they take on. Other noteworthy names are Società Assicuratrice Industriale (SAI), owned by



Enrico Randone

the Ligresti group, which is third, and Unipol, sixth. Based in Bologna, Unipol belongs to Lega, the left-wing co-operative movement.

About 30 per cent of business is, directly or indirectly, under foreign control. In recent years many international groups have established a presence and, in Signor Escher's phrase, "some have done a good deal, others have bought a pig in a poke, while still others have a pig in a poke but don't yet know it. The really good companies, worth buying, are few in number. Above all, it is the poor companies that are offered for sale."

The smaller, life side is a different story. Heavy annual expansion of 30 per cent in the Eighties has subsided to 15-16 per cent. Many companies, such as Alleanza, Generali's life subsidiary — not to be confused with Allianz — have revamped their range of products, to be more in line with international trends. In Signor Escher's view, a first level of saturation has been reached.

JOHN EARLE

Dutch in the first cross-border link

THE Netherlands is the biggest and the most liberal insurance market of the three Benelux countries, and the one best prepared for the single market.

Dutch insurers' expansion plans within the European Community have been largely frustrated, however, by protectionism in other European countries.

Nevertheless, it is two Benelux insurance companies which have created the "first full cross-border merger" within the EC. In March, Amey, The Netherlands' third largest insurer, and Groupe AG, the Belgian market leader, announced their intention to merge, although they are still waiting for approval from the EC commission.

The merger was couched in terms of expanding into the 1993 single market, but it must be seen more as a defence mechanism. Producers looking for a Benelux acquisition will now have to pay more for Amey/AG.

In October Interpolis Verzekeringen, the insurance subsidiary of Rabobank, the Dutch bank, signed a partnership agreement with three other European insurers that have links with the agriculture sector: Raiffeisen und Volksbanken Versicherungen of Germany, Les Assurances Mutuelles Agricoles of France and the Belgische Boerenbond. This enables each to set up operations in the others' countries.

Both the Belgian and Dutch insurance markets are highly concentrated, making it difficult for foreign newcomers to build up market share. In Belgium, expansion is doubly difficult because of stringent rules governing new policies and tariffs.

But there is a new impulse driving both markets, following the abolition in both of legislation forbidding commercial links between banks and insurers.

MARK FULLER

Spain builds bull market

SPAIN'S insurance business has been the fastest developing in Europe since 1984, the year the industry began to be liberalised.

Between 1984 and the end of 1988, Spanish insurance grew by an average 30 per cent a year, while life insurance grew by an average 70 per cent. Despite this, premiums totalled only £10 billion in 1989, equivalent to about 4 per cent of the value of all the EC's premiums.

That year was a bad one, as premiums declined 22 per cent compared with 1988, but for a special reason.

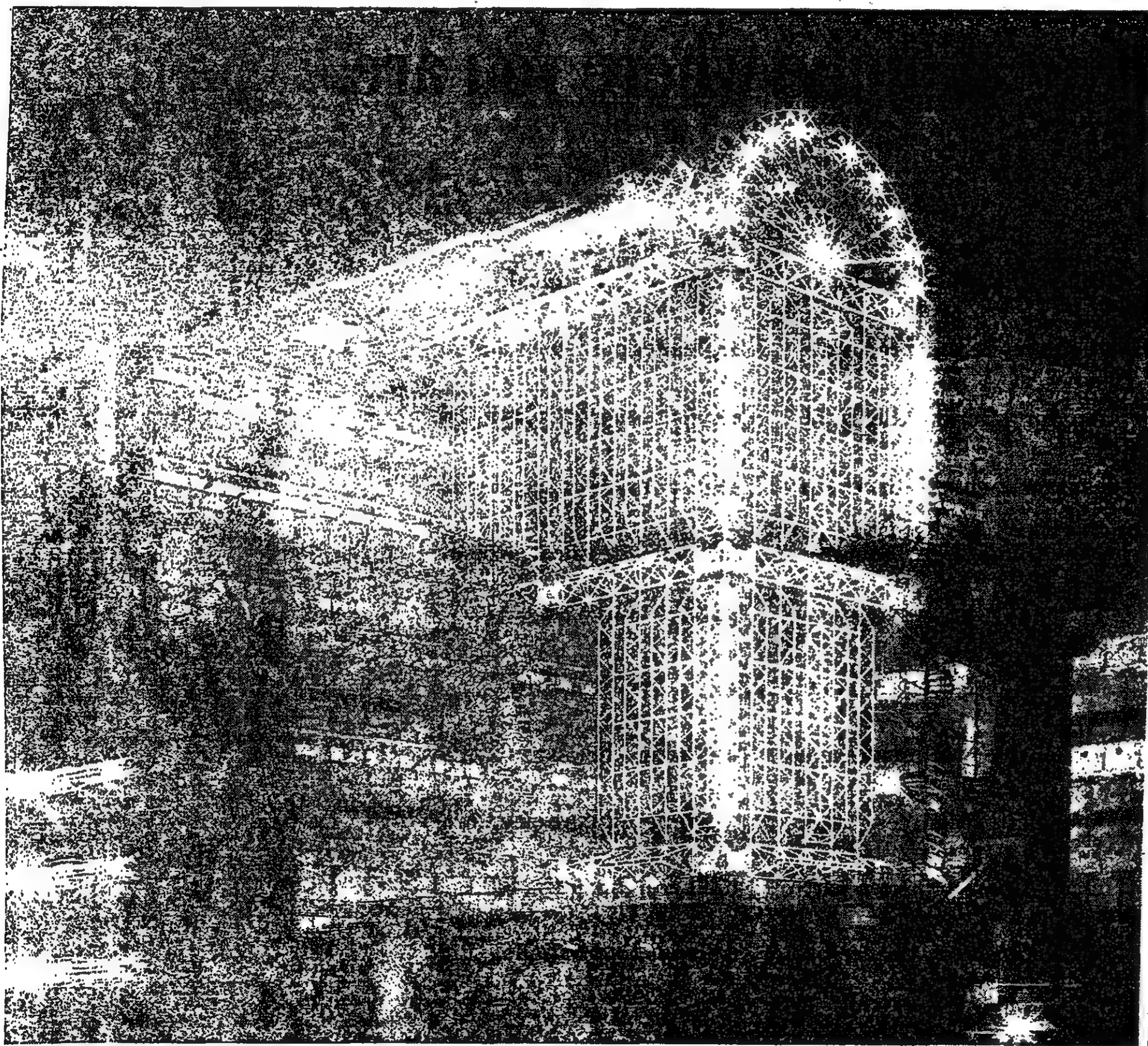
After a two-year legal battle, the government succeeded, in 1989, in obtaining the names of holders of a special insurance policy — a single-premium policy, written with a minimum life insurance element. The government had discovered that such policies were not only eluding monetary controls, but also being used by holders to conceal up to £10 billion from tax inspec-

tors. Guillermo Kessler, insurance supervisor in the finance ministry, says the subsequent fall in demand for single-premium policies was the sole reason for the decline in premiums in 1989.

Nevertheless, Señor Kessler believes Spain's insurance will go on growing well above the EC average because Spaniards spend less than half the community's average on insurance. This potential market is behind the scramble by foreign companies to stake claims in Spain.

Spain's biggest insurance companies, nearly all of which are controlled by Spanish banks, have made only timid attempts to expand abroad. La Unión y el Fénix, which is one of the very few Spanish insurance companies with a tradition of trading abroad, being active in France, has recently made an investment in Portugal. So has Vitalicio, controlled by Banco Central.

JANE MONAHAN



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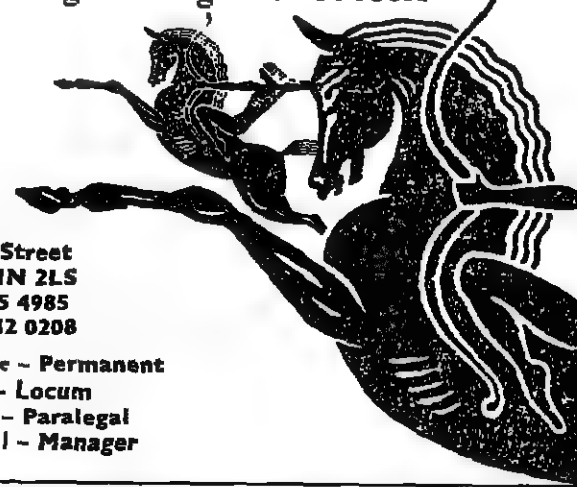
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Four-point plan for justice

The need to improve access to justice is one of the great issues of our time. A system of justice is not worthy of the name if any section of the community is excluded from it for any reason. It is unacceptable to have a large group of people who cannot afford to go to law.

In December 1989 the Lord Chancellor's Legal Aid Advisory Committee said: "The issue of eligibility for legal aid has long been a concern of the committee... although [the] evidence on the relative fall of the eligibility level is indirect, it is consistent and persistent."

A study by Michael Murphy, of the London School of Economics, suggests that 14.8 million people and 5.5 million households have become ineligible for civil legal aid since 1979.

In March a joint letter from the Bar Council and the Law Society to the Lord Chancellor reflected the legal profession's increasing concern about this decline, and the Lord Chancellor's review of the financial conditions for legal aid is considering the issue of eligibility.

The government says gross expenditure on legal aid in the last financial year was £715 million. This figure calls for careful examination. The net cost is £594 million. Criminal legal aid accounts for £282 million, non-matrimonial civil legal aid for £76

Too many are denied civil legal aid. Peter Cresswell, QC, offers his solution

LEGAL BRIEF

million and matrimonial civil legal aid for £71 million. These net figures include 15 per cent VAT and should be reduced accordingly.

It is hardly surprising that the cost of criminal legal aid has risen. Between 1984 and 1989 the number of defendants who received legal aid for crown court trials rose from about 105,000 to 132,000. Expenditure on criminal legal aid is inevitably demand-led. The rise in unit costs reflects the increasing complexity of criminal cases. The creation of the Serious Fraud Office and the use by the prosecution of advanced technology must reflect this complexity, but no statistics are available.

Criminal and civil legal aid should be considered separately. Those who require civil legal aid should not suffer because the cost of criminal legal aid has risen. It is necessary to focus attention on eligibility for civil legal aid, and in particular the 14.8 million people who have become ineligible for it since 1979.

The legal profession has its part to play. We need to continue to fight those old enemies, cost and delay. The assessment of costs by

an independent court official in civil legal aid cases gives the taxpayer appropriate protection. Arrangements for payment in civil legal aid cases are such that after a case has been running for 18 months 46 per cent of the fees will be paid on account. Such arrangements impose an appalling financial strain on young barristers and would not be accepted by any commercial organisation.

Many solicitors and barristers give a great deal of time to initiatives that are aimed at filling gaps in the legal aid system. For example, the Bar's Free Representation Unit has handled more than 1,000 cases in tribunals without charge this year. The clients in these cases would otherwise have been unrepresented, as legal aid is still not available for tribunals or arbitrations.

Urgent action is required to remedy the difficulties faced by the large section of the population who cannot afford to go to law. I have four proposals:

1. The government should restore

legal aid eligibility at least to the levels of 1979. The Lord Chancellor's Legal Aid Review is looking at ways of meeting the financial needs of those now ineligible. The eligibility limits could be removed or raised, or operated more flexibly in individual cases.

2. There is an urgent need to develop alternative dispute resolution. The Bar Council's proposals for a pilot scheme to provide conciliation in non-matrimonial county court cases have yet to be accepted by the government. There is a great opportunity to develop new procedures for the early and cost-effective disposal of civil cases.

3. The Bar Council has reaffirmed the Bar's commitment to undertake legal aid work within a barrister's particular field of practice. A similar rule should apply to all advocates. I hope this will be accepted by all advocates seeking extended rights of audience. If it is not, the Courts and Legal Services Act can achieve this.

4. Computer facilities should be installed in all civil courts to reduce delay.

We must ensure that ordinary people have the same access to justice, including the same quality of representation, as that available to the big battalions. Implementing the four proposals I have made would help to achieve this goal.

• The author is chairman of the Bar.



Does the man in the street get a fair deal from the system? Access to justice is one of today's issues

Law Report November 6 1990 Court of Appeal

Council applied wrong test in assessing intentional homelessness

Regina v Newham London Borough Council, Ex parte Tower Hamlets London Borough Council

Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Taylor

[Judgment October 19] In deciding whether or not an applicant for housing had acted reasonably in leaving his accommodation for the purposes of determining his intentional or unintentional homelessness under section 60 of the Housing Act 1985, a local authority should have regard to his former accommodation in the context of accepted standards within that local community, and should not compare that accommodation with the housing standard of the area to which he had applied.

Further, where one local authority failed to apply that test, and also failed to take account of housing shortages within

another local authority to which it decided to refer the application for housing under section 67 of the 1985 Act, its decision was fatally flawed.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing Newham London Borough Council's appeal from the Divisional Court (Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Nolan) (*The Times* March 15) which had granted Tower Hamlets London Borough Council's application for judicial review and quashed Newham's decision referring to Tower Hamlets a housing application made by Mr Rashid Ullah under section 67 of the 1985 Act.

Mr David Watkinson for Newham; Mr Ashley Underwood and Miss Lucy Theis for Tower Hamlets; Mr Ullah was not present or represented.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that Mr Ullah had come to the United Kingdom from Bangladesh in 1972, returning there to his wife and

children in 1984. There he had lived in accommodation which was later described as conforming with the accepted standards in Bangladesh.

He had given up his home there in 1986, returning to England with his family and staying with his son in Tower Hamlets. His family had expanded and in 1987 he was required to leave that accommodation and to apply to Tower Hamlets for housing assistance under Part III of the 1985 Act.

His Lordship referred to the detailed consideration given to his application by that local authority, which concluded that although he was homeless and with a priority need, he was nevertheless intentionally homeless.

Mr Ullah had then applied for housing assistance to Newham. That authority had agreed with Tower Hamlets on the first two considerations but concluded that he was unintentionally homeless, and had a local

connection with Tower Hamlets. Newham therefore referred his application to Tower Hamlets under section 67.

The test as to intentional homelessness was derived from section 60 of the Act. Although the Act was only concerned with homelessness within Great Britain, the relevant enquiry was not to be confined to events only occurring within the United Kingdom. What was in issue was why the applicant became homeless here.

His Lordship referred to the voluntary acts whereby Mr Ullah had left his accommodation in Bangladesh and come to Tower Hamlets. The essential question was therefore whether his conduct was reasonable.

Tower Hamlets' decision had been reached after an appropriate consideration of the relevant matters, including that his accommodation in Bangladesh was not of a standard which he would have considered acceptable standards there.

His Lordship referred to the

enquiries and report made by the housing officer in Newham and to the report of the homeless co-ordinator which considered the condition of Mr Ullah's accommodation in Bangladesh and, comparing it unfavourably with the prevailing standards of housing in Newham, concluded that it was not reasonable for Mr Ullah to have continued to live in the house in Bangladesh.

His Lordship considered that it was a most undesirable result that two different tribunals investigating questions of fact had reached different conclusions.

He considered why in the present case that had been so, in particular that Newham had not considered the basis and reasons for Tower Hamlets' decision. Had it done so, it would have discovered that different criteria had been applied and doubtless would have considered whether Tower Hamlets had adopted the correct approach which it should follow.

Mr Ullah was not just moving

from place to place, he was emigrating to a different country and continent. That involved his ceasing to occupy available accommodation in Bangladesh in favour of temporary accommodation in Tower Hamlets which would become grossly overcrowded.

A relevant factor in judging the reasonableness of that decision was whether the accommodation which he was giving up conformed to the accepted standards of the community into which he had been born and had lived for most of his life.

That was not to say that the manifest deficiencies of that accommodation were irrelevant, but they had to be seen in the context of judging the reasonableness of his decision. Tower Hamlets, but not Newham, took that context into account.

Mr Ullah's prospect of employment in the United Kingdom was another factor of great relevance which was taken into account by Tower Hamlets, but not, it seemed by Newham.

Tower Hamlets took account of the housing shortage in the area to which Mr Ullah had moved, namely Tower Hamlets. However, Newham took account of its own shortage of accommodation.

The issue for both local authorities was whether Mr Ullah's decision to cease to occupy his house in Bangladesh was reasonable. That involved consideration of what he was leaving it for.

He was leaving it for Tower Hamlets, not Newham. The latter authority's approach had not addressed the correct question.

His Lordship set out the machinery for referral in section 67 of the Act. The facts of the present case highlighted the unsatisfactory nature of the system.

The dispute resolution

machinery in section 67(4) was limited to deciding whether the conditions for referral specified in section 67(2) and with (3) were met.

But they did not include the fundamental questions referred to in section 67(1) relating to intentional homelessness and priority need, which fell to be decided by the local authority to which the applicant happened to apply, or was currently applying.

The vice of the system was pointed out a decade ago in *R v Slough Borough Council, Ex parte Ealing London Borough Council* ([1981] QB 801). Lord Justice Templeman's call for legislative reform (at p816) had gone unheeded. The system was perpetuated in the present Act.

As a matter of law the power to refer was discretionary, although Newham might well not have appreciated that. The investigation as to whether the referral conditions existed was entrusted to the officer who had investigated the facts of Mr Ullah's application. On her conclusion that the conditions were met, the referral seemed to have been made without further discussion or consideration.

His Lordship referred to the Divisional Court's consideration of Newham's failure to have regard to general housing conditions in Tower Hamlets. That court, quashing the referral, had concluded that that factor should have been considered, and that Newham's decision, reached solely by reference to its own determination of unintentional homelessness and without regard to Tower Hamlets' refusal to accept Mr Ullah as unintentionally homeless on grounds which included the chronic housing shortage in Tower Hamlets, could not be justified.

His Lordship considered that the Divisional Court's order could be upheld on broader grounds. If there were to be a referral.

the referring authority had to be satisfied of the matters set out in section 67(1). While its decision could not be appealed, it could not found a referral if it was flawed in that it failed to take account of the general housing circumstances prevailing in Tower Hamlets, and in particular took account of those in Newham; that it failed to consider the extent to which Mr Ullah's Bangladesh accommodation conformed to accepted local standards; that it failed to take account of his employment prospects, and to ascertain and consider Tower Hamlets' reasons for holding that he was intentionally homeless.

Had Newham approached that latter question as it should have done, it was highly likely that it would have reached the same conclusion as Tower Hamlets.

Good administration and community between local authorities demanded that in exercising a power, such as contained in section 67, the authority should take full account of the prevailing general housing circumstances in both areas and should give serious consideration to whether, notwithstanding that the referral conditions were met, the public interest required that the rehousing should be undertaken by it rather than by the other authority.

That had not been done, and it was not for the court to do it and indirectly decide what Newham's decision should have been. His Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Taylor delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Mr G. M. Curran, Newham; Mr A. R. Cannell, Tower Hamlets.

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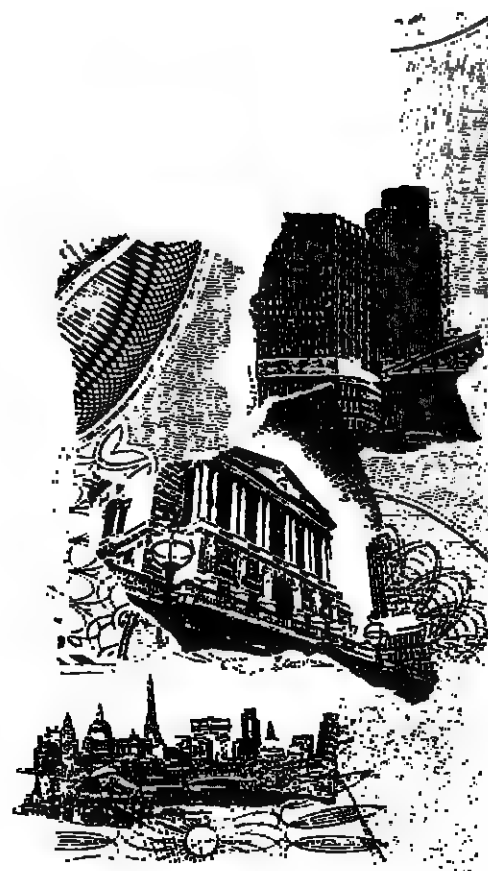
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THE LAW

Into the heart of Europe

As the continental market grows, two British law firms are poised to take on the Germans on their own ground, Edward Fennell writes

British fondness for self-criticism sometimes gets in the way of a true appreciation of our strengths. In the case of law, that means pausing occasionally from carping about solicitors and giving them credit for being the most enterprising, flexible and dynamic lawyers in Europe.

Evidence for this will come next week when the City firm Freshfields opens its office in Frankfurt. Clifford Chance is already there but only in association with a German firm. The Freshfields development is the first independent initiative by a leading London firm to get a foothold in the German market.

By going boldly into the heart of Germany's commercial community Freshfields has set out on a course — whether perilous or profitable remains to be seen — to challenge German firms on their own territory.

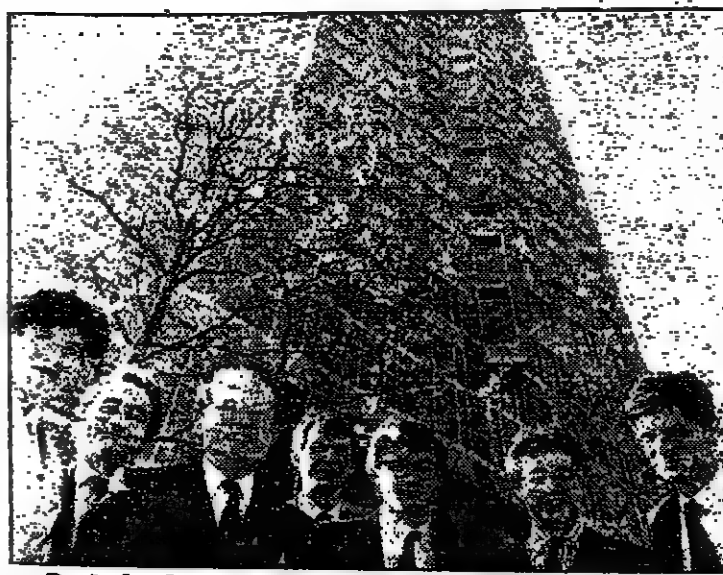
"I expect that within ten years our Frankfurt office will be of the same size and status as our Paris office is today," says Julian Francis, who is to head the new enterprise. It is an ambitious boast because Freshfields' Paris office is one of the top six firms in the French capital and has a reputation for excellence independent of its London parent. If Freshfields does achieve its goal, however, it will represent an astonishing success for the British

way of running legal services. According to Dr Peter Opitz, the German lawyer and former banker who will help to open the Frankfurt office, the leading German law firms are having to move fast to make up for lost time. With the unification of Germany and the emphasis on the country's role as Europe's leading economy, the law firms are expanding to match the ambitions of their industrial and commercial clients.

To win business in such an environment Freshfields is carefully cultivating a pan-European image. Although there is no doubt that the firm's international headquarters are in London, Freshfields in Frankfurt will have a cosmopolitan atmosphere, with French as well as German and British lawyers in the office from next Monday. This multinational team will be the attraction for a large amount of cross-border work.

"We are aiming to do a lot of international mergers and acquisition work, joint venture work, as well as pure corporate finance and project financing in eastern Germany," Dr Opitz explains. "We shall be able to do all of it within the same office — nobody else in Germany will be able to do the same."

So the question is whether such



Ready for the opposition: the Freshfields team in Frankfurt

"one-stop Euro shopping" will tempt clients away from established German firms. Nabarro Nathanson is equally ambitious when it comes to Germany but is working through tight network relationships. It already has its German associates, Raedler Raupach & Partners, and from next January it is merging with the Berlin firm of Bezenberger, Mock, Zatzsch & Partners. At the same time it is formalising its association with Lambert Grohman & Kerres, an Austrian commercial law practice, which also has an office in Budapest. In this way, according to partner Brian Clark, Nabarro Nathanson will reach into the heart of middle Europe.

"At the moment we are going for strong bilateral relationships with firms on the continent," Mr Clark says. "Once we have those in place then it may be appropriate to think in terms of extending those to become multilateral."

No doubt there is room for both approaches. But each has its risks. Dr Opitz says his experience in the banking world suggests that networks, ultimately, do not thrive, while Nabarro Nathanson argues that Freshfields will lose goodwill by sneaking into Germany with its ambitious too clearly on display. Whichever turns out to be right, the European future of British lawyers may depend on these ventures.

Raising the roof over rent reviews

NOBODY should underestimate the importance of rent reviews. Asset values are at stake and, in marginal cases, the solvency of the company may turn on the outcome. It is not surprising that rent reviews are a fertile ground for litigation. What may be surprising is the extent to which some people are prepared to press seemingly unrealistic arguments.

One of the most popular games for tenants is taking up abstruse points with a view to delaying the entire procedure. If the new rent does not have to be paid until the rent review is settled, although it will be applied retrospectively once a settlement is achieved, the tenant thereby gains a substantial cash flow advantage.

In one case the lease stated that the landlord had only a limited time to make an application for the ap-

pointment of an independent surveyor to fix the review. The landlord's agents applied but in their letter they said they did not want the surveyor to take any immediate action, so that there was a further opportunity to negotiate. The tenants claimed that this addition invalidated the application. When this argument was rejected by the High Court, the tenants took it to the Court of Appeal, gaining an extra two years' delay. The rent review of 1984 was thus postponed until 1987. The trustee landlords, Montague Executor and Trustee Company, were not amused.

Another common ploy is to find some words in the lease that change the basis on which the rent is assessed. Normally a rent review will be based on ordinary open market lettings. However, if the

lease has special directions as to how the rent is assessed, as almost all rent review clauses do, the door is open for the nit-pickers.

The most famous example of this, now on its way to a fifth court hearing, this time in the House of Lords, turns on whether the rent should be valued on the basis that there will be regular future rent reviews or on the hypothetical basis that there will be no rent review for the next 20 years. The advantage of a lease without rent reviews is obvious and tenants are assumed to be happy to pay a higher rent to avoid future reviews.

In the particular case involving accountants Arthur Young a nuance in the relevant clause allowed the landlords to argue that the valuation should ignore the fact that the lease provided for future rent reviews. The landlords claimed that

the rent review had to be fixed in the world of "make believe" on terms quite different from those of the actual lease. This argument was upheld by the judge, and a quick arbitration law prevented rights of appeal, so the tenants were stuck for the next five years with an annual rent of £200,000 above the true market figure. The present litigation turns on whether the case is capable of being re-litigated.

What are we to do? The key advice is to check the lease well in advance, approximately 18 months before the review. It is usually easier to sort out potentially expensive problems before the heat of battle brings with it the entrenchment of opposing views.

JOHN SAMSON

● The author is a partner at Nabarro Nathanson and editor of Property Law Bulletin.

INNS AND OUTS

The first meeting of a working party to examine the causes and extent of parental child abduction and to recommend changes in the law to deal with the problem was held at the House of Commons last week. Reunite, the National Council for Abducted Children, says the incidence of kidnapping by a parent after marriage breakdown is increasing, and ease of travel has increased the opportunities. A group of lawyers in the working party will meet in the next 12 months to consider improvements to the law. A separate group will consider how a profile of the typical abductor can be built up, to help judges making orders on custody and access. Reunite says abduction often occurs when the court has thought the non-custodial parent is unlikely to abduct and has therefore made an access order giving ample opportunity for kidnapping.

What is happening to the Law Society? Is it the presidency of Tony Holland or something in the tea? Hardly a day goes by when the public are not regaled with a strong and carefully considered statement on a pressing question of legal policy. There are calls for a more humane jail system and a prompt analysis of the new proposals on child maintenance and divorce, and concern over the apparent loss of an important remedy for tenants in the Environmental Bill. The solicitors' professional body, which for a long time has been regarded as little more than a trade union, with particular skill in representing its members' own interests, clearly has the potential to become an influential reforming voice.

Meanwhile, the more routine business of publishing the Law Society's annual statistics continues. This year's revealed there are now 4.5 per cent more solicitors than last year and that women make up 47 per cent of new entrants and 23 per cent of solicitors on the roll. Central London is absorbing more trainee solicitors than ever (42 per cent compared with 30 per cent in 1985-86) and more than half of all solicitors' firms are concentrated in the southeast. The profession as a whole turned over almost £4.5 billion in the year to March 31, 1990 — 18 per cent more than in the previous year. This could ensure that the popularity of solicitors will not shoot up dramatically, despite a few hard-hitting press releases.

Legal aid firm Deacon Goldstein Green has notched up another mark against its rivals with an expansion of its 13-office network in Liverpool to 20 across Merseyside. This makes DGG the largest one-firm network of high-street legal aid practitioners in Britain. With the acquisition of the Wirral practice of Gearing & Wilde, DGG's total staff is now 250. DGG is already a firm that other legal aid practitioners love to hate. At a time when lawyers were preaching the difficulties of making ends meet on legal aid fees, DGG was showing that such work, done in bulk, can pay. The Lord Chancellor's officials were sufficiently impressed to pay a visit. David Deacon, a senior partner, says: "We consider the Wirral as the natural springboard to establishing a major regional presence within a very short time." He says DGG will bring its "aggressive marketing style and effective systems" into increasingly diverse areas of work.

It is no secret how much American lawyers want a big slice of the European cake, and the New York giant Shearman & Sterling will help itself to a choice piece when it moves into Germany in the new year with offices in Frankfurt and Düsseldorf. Its competitors may be interested to note that the new branch offices will be practising German, American and European Community law. The appropriation of local lawyers is the most promising route to European penetration for American firms, and Shearman has captured a senior German lawyer, Georg Thomas, from the Düsseldorf firm Geller Meyer-Landrat Miller to head its German operation.

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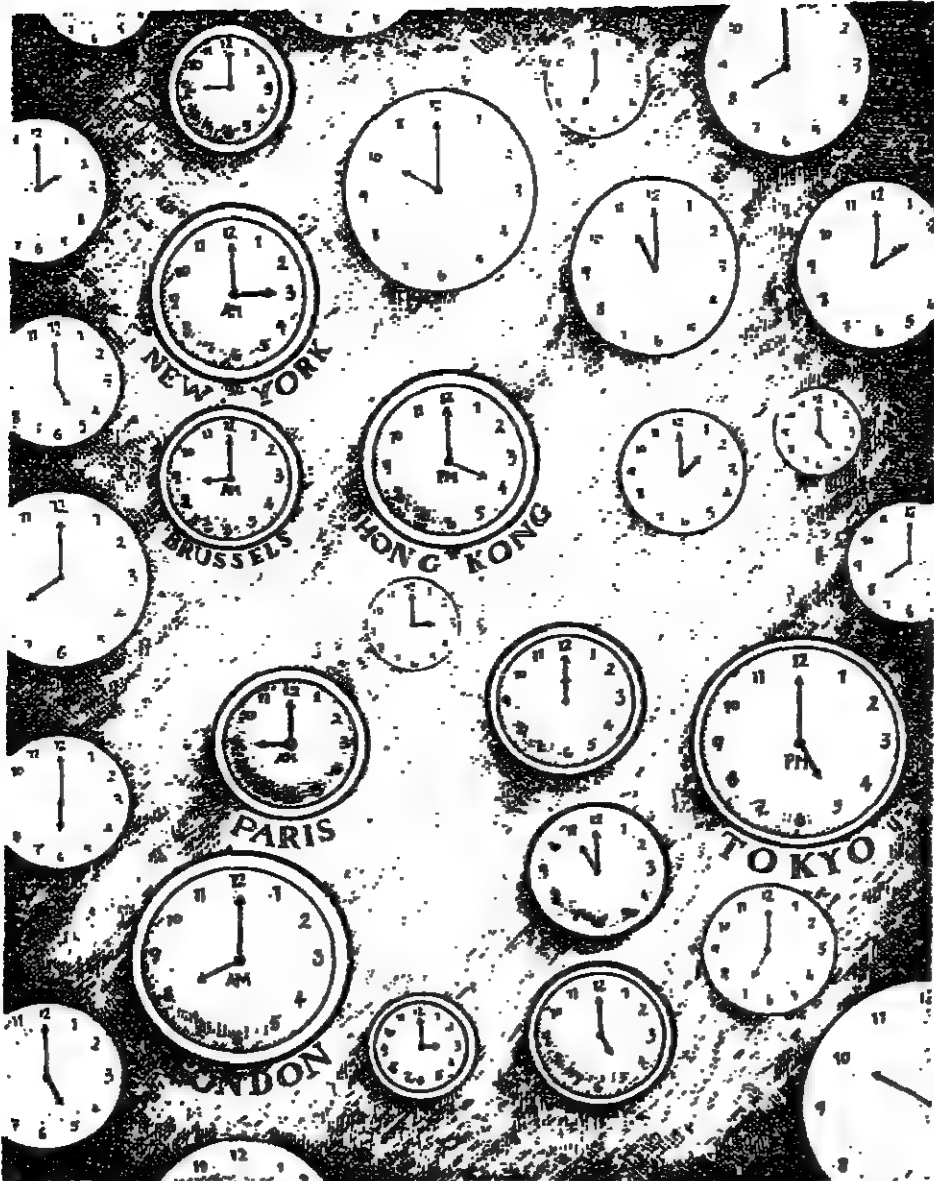
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Earth's secret-seekers

When the Queen launches the RRS James Clark Ross, a new £35 million ship designed for polar exploration, next month, she will be marking the end of an anniversary year celebrating 25 years of research by the Natural Environment Research Council.

The ship will join four others in the council's fleet, which provides a platform for marine science investigations and helps to supply its five Antarctic research stations. The council was studying the environment and training scientists to work in this field long before it became a popular issue. This year it is spending £33 million on its research centres, training postgraduate scientists and encouraging environmental studies in higher education.

The council offers a wide array of opportunities to those who want to do something about the environment instead of merely being involved in rhetoric, and to the people who are attracted by the idea of studying the environment as scientists to understand the mechanisms that cause it to change.

More than 2,500 staff are employed at the research centres and this year the council is also providing the finance for 290 students to start postgraduate research projects related to the environment in British universities. A further 206 awards are being given to finance students doing advanced courses in the environmental sciences.

The council's full-time scientists and technicians, an increasing number of whom are on short-term contracts, are em-

Scientists with the Natural Environment Research Council investigate the planet's problems. Neil Harris looks at their work

played at the many research centres. These centres include the British Antarctic Survey, the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences, the British Geological Survey and the Plymouth Marine Laboratory. Together the centres provide research opportunities for scientists from a wide range of disciplines, including biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, geology and environmental science. These scientists are recruited in small numbers every year as scientific officers or assistants. A few engineers are also sought to work in design or other technical supporting roles, many of which are related to the design, maintenance and operation of equipment used in experiments at sea.

Recruitment to the Earth sciences - the integrated environmental science of the 20th and 21st centuries, inextricably linked with mankind's continued existence on, and safe custody of, this planet - is essential, says Mary Thornton, of the council's Earth Sciences Directorate. The council's scientists have recently been using novel tech-

niques to probe deep into chambers of molten rock, deep under the seabed. These are thought to provide the source of volcanic eruptions. They play a vital role in the creation of the Earth's crust and are linked with mineral-rich hot springs where life flourishes without sunlight.

At the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences in Godalming, Surrey, scientists are investigating the ocean and the geology of the deep sea floor. Research vessels moored at Barry, in South Wales, make long cruises, which are joined by different scientific teams to perform experiments in their particular areas of interest. Global warming and climatic change are among the subjects being studied, especially how they

are affected by interactions between the atmosphere and the oceans. The council is the British partner in the World Ocean Circulation Experiment, in which researchers from 20 countries are taking part.

The European satellite, ERS1, launched last month, is the first of a series to provide a global perspective by measuring the tem-

perature and height of the sea, its underlying currents and the global wind field.

Is the sea level rising or falling? Scientists are collecting monthly data at 1,300 places around the world to detect changes as they happen. They aim to provide information for offshore engineering, coastal management and research into changes in the climate.

A five-year investigation into water quality in the North Sea is another project, this one being investigated by the Proudman Oceanographic Laboratories on Merseyside.

Scientists there are developing a computer-based model to predict water quality. A 15-month cruise has already gathered a large quantity of data, which is being used to look for the effects of seasonal changes, winter storms and summer sunshine on the North Sea. It is estimated, for example, that 8,000 tonnes of zinc are deposited in the North Sea every year through rain and a roughly equal amount from rivers.

Plymouth Marine Laboratory is one of several centres doing research in the marine sciences. Topics they are studying include predicting how ecosystems work in estuaries and investigating how individual plant and animal species fit in.

Environmentalists hope we shall understand during the next 25 years that we could devastate our own planet if we are careless. The council will monitor progress, detect what is happening, and research trends that could have a marked effect on our future. It is a challenge many scientists will want to take up.



Matching water and weather: Brian King in his laboratory

BRIAN KING's research at the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences in Godalming, Surrey, is just one part of the World Ocean Circulation Experiment, an international effort to improve our understanding of how the behaviour of the oceans and the weather are related.

"One goal is to understand how the ocean varies from year to year, decade to decade," Mr King says. "We have made measurements in the Atlantic on cruises in the Bay of Biscay. We chose a place where the upper ocean is well mixed in winter and warm on the surface in summer. Our measurements were an attempt to detect signals of climatic change as far as 500 metres down into the sea. We know the water on top absorbs carbon dioxide from the air, then mixes deeper in the ocean and moves south."

"My experiments are designed to find out whether the ocean can absorb carbon dioxide fast enough to regulate the greenhouse effect."

"We measure the water temperature to a few thousandths of a degree and the salinity to three parts per million. Our two main techniques are lowering instruments while the ship is stationary and taking measurements down to the sea bed, or using an instrument that cycles between the surface and 350 metres as it is towed along."

"My work is funded by National Power, which has given me a five-year fellowship. On the ship I have 15 scientists, who run the instruments and help to collect data."

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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, Recruitment Unit, office in the United Kingdom, 8 Storey's Gate, London SW1P 3AT; office in Northern Ireland, Windsor House, 9/15 Bedford Street, Belfast BT2 7ED;

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Closing date for submission of applications: 7/12/1990.

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24C

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Closing date for applications: 16 November 1990.



THE TIMES

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Women caught in gender trap

DAVID MILLER

Monaco
A SITUATION in which one sportswoman in 500 is suddenly allegedly not a woman is alarming sports medical officers and administrators, as well as creating a devastating psychological trauma for the people themselves.

There have been 13 failures in 6,561 recent gender verification tests in performance-measured women's sporting events such as athletics and swimming. Dr Elizabeth Ferris, a former diving champion and medical officer for the Modern Pentathlon Association, said: "The shock to the woman is overwhelming. For the most part, they disappear from sport completely devastated, their careers cut off cruelly and abruptly."

The anxiety for administrators and competitors is that, in the highly complex sexual equation, of chromosomes + hormones + anatomy, which can be infinitely variable in individual detail, gender testing is excluding more athletes unfairly than it is detecting those who cheat.

Caught in the net are genetic disorders that are not performance-advantageous; they are aberrations within what might be termed an allowable range. Exceptionally tall men and women, for example, are not banned from being high jumpers or basketball players.

Dr Ferris collaborates on this issue with Professor Malcolm Ferguson-Smith, head of pathology at Cambridge University. At the annual congress of the General Assembly of International Sports Federations (GAISF) at Monte Carlo, she outlined their recommendation for altering gender-testing by organisations such as the International Olympic Committee and the International Amateur Athletic Federation, in order that it shall provide peace of mind and fairness for all women competitors; whatever their sexual constitution.

The complexity of the physiological problems confronting sportswomen was further emphasised to GAISF delegates — many of whom discountenanced ignored the opportunity to gain imperative information about inherent development dangers among both adolescent girls and adult sportswomen.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Reilly keeps faith with same squad

By KEITH MACKLIN

NOBODY expected Malcolm Reilly, the Great Britain coach, to make changes after the stunningly unexpected victory over Australia, and true to his innate sense of loyalty to those who have served him well, Reilly names the same squad of 17 for the second British Old Country international at Old Trafford on Saturday.

The only changes are in the two travelling reserve positions, involving two players who have just returned from injury, the Wigan forward, Andy Paul, and the St Helens centre, Paul Loughlin. Both came successfully through their club matches on Sunday.

A surprise yet again is the exclusion of Jonathan Davies, who put in another useful performance for Widnes against Leeds, but who does not even get the reserve role which he would have occupied for the first international, but for his steadfast illness. Another former regular in Reilly's plans who has been unable to rejoin the party is the Wigan utility back, Joe Lydon.

It was obvious from the style and nature of Reilly's victory over the Australians that Reilly would have difficulty justifying to himself any dramatic changes. He must have contemplated bringing back Loughlin in the starting line-up as goal-kicking cover for Paul Eastwood, the Hull winger, who had an outstanding game and scored two tries at Wembley. Eastwood's lucking was erratic and could have proved costly for Great Britain, but Reilly keeps faith in him.

Among the options available for Reilly are the use of the experienced half backs, David

— by Professor Moira O'Brien, professor of anatomy at Trinity College, Dublin, and medical officer to the Ireland Olympic team.

Professor O'Brien drew attention to the coincidence in highly trained girls and women, particularly in gymnastics, athletics and swimming, of amenorrhoea (absence of menstruation), hormone-profile deficiencies and osteoporosis (brittle bones). The American College of Sports Medicine has shown that one-third of competitive female long-distance runners experience amenorrhoea or oligomenorrhoea (menstrual disturbance). In one recent case, a 23-year-old had an osteoporosis level of a woman of 70.

Most of the medical controversies in women's sport arise out of ignorance, which is why it was shameful that the delegates of so many sports represented within GAISF missed an opportunity to learn. All sports competitors are, to a degree, compromised by the pressures placed upon them — some self-imposed, some induced by coaches or by the expectation of society — but women are, by their biology, more vulnerable than men.

The background to gender testing is factually bizarre. The need arose because of incidents before and after the second world war and a mounting suspicion in the Fifties and Sixties about some eastern European women with abnormal masculine characteristics.

Stella Walasiewicz, of Poland, the 1932 Olympic 100 metres winner, who was killed as a bystander in a shooting incident in America in 1980, was discovered on autopsy to have internal testes. This was a case of male pseudohermaphroditism; female external genitalia, internal testes, probably having the Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome of male chromosomes and female characteristics.

Zdenka Koubkova, of Czechoslovakia, 800 metres world record-holder in 1934, subsequently had a sex-change operation to become a man. Dora Ratjen, of Germany, high jump world

record-holder in 1938, had mixed male and female organs, and was banned by her federation. Les Cauria and Clare Bressolles, members of the French relay team which was second in the European championships of 1946, both had "sex-change" operations and "Pierre" Bressolles fathered a child. Erika Schinegger, of Austria, world downhill skiing champion in 1964, was pronounced male the following year, married and became a father.

Such known aberrations, and many other suspicions, persuaded the IOC/IAAF that gender-testing was necessary, to avoid the unfair advantage of inter-sex individuals from excessive effects of the strength/size-related male hormone, testosterone.

At the European athletics championships in Budapest in 1966, women athletes were subjected to a degrading nude parade in front of three women doctors. All 243 were pronounced normal, but five world record-holders under suspicion did not appear and were therefore untested. At the Commonwealth Games in 1966, a manual examination by a gynaecologist took place, provoking rightful indignation.

Subsequently, the Buccal smear test of cells in the mouth was introduced and in use by 1972. This reveals the structure of the chromosome nucleus, with "normal" females having the XX characteristic and "normal" males XY. Yet it is possible to have XY "females" and XX "males" because of aberrations that take place at the critical differentiation phase of genitalia tissue at the fifth week of gestation. These unfortunate individuals then have external characteristics, by which doctors and their mothers identify them at birth, at variance with their chromatin/hormonal structure.

Those rare women who are XY, being anatomically female because they failed during gestation to respond normally to their testosterone density — and to become boys — are termed Androgen Insensitive. It is these women who unfairly fail the gender verification test, because they have no advantageous strength/size factor and, indeed, are immune to the benefit of steroids should



Changing course: Erik Schinegger on the slopes in 1969 after the sex-change which ended the career of Erika Schinegger, former world downhill champion

they try to cheat by that method.

The proposal of Ferguson-Smith and Ferris for the better protection of all women is that:

Eligibility certificates should be obtained at least one month or preferably much earlier before competition; the responsibility should be that of their own national federation; testing should be only by qualified,

accredited laboratories; records should be confidential unless required by the national Olympic committee; spot checks, to discourage falsification of documents, should be made at the same time as drug-testing during competition, enabling those who know they may "fail" to have supporting documents.

It may be seen by non-sporting people that such steps are infringements of liberty and morally objec-

tionable. They are unfortunately necessary so long as women exercise the right, the wish or the need to compete separately from men, and not together as in riding and sailing. The alternative is to take the risk that competition may be corrupted either by the unwitting or by the unscrupulous. Most mothers, however, may remain confident that daughters who look like daughters are daughters.

OVERSEAS FOOTBALL

Doubts surround Beckenbauer

By KEITH BLACKMORE

FRANZ Beckenbauer is the latest leading European coach to find himself under pressure because of his team's poor domestic performance. When he took over Marseilles, the French champions, in September, they had a four-point lead at the top of the first division; after losing 2-0 to Nancy at the weekend, they slipped to second place, a point behind Auxerre.

Goals by Richard Tarsiewicz, of Poland, and Aleksandr Zavarov, of the Soviet Union, brought about Marseilles' third defeat in six league matches and already Bernard Tapie, the president of

the club, appears to be having misgivings about the expensive and controversial appointment of Beckenbauer.

He said: "I hired him because I wanted him to impose a different spirit and a different approach to training. My problem is to know whether that different approach will pay off before it is too late. It will be too late if some day we realise that there is too much of a difference between German and French football."

The fallings of Marseilles have, however, tended to overshadow the achievements of Auxerre, whose 3-2 win against

Lille was their thirteenth match without defeat. Two of their goals came from the winger, Coquard, and the other from a penalty by Scifo, the Belgian midfielder player who most believe to be the team's driving force this year.

But if the storm clouds are gathering for Beckenbauer, they lifted somewhat for two other coaches, Bobby Robson and John Toshack. On Saturday, Robson's team, PSV Eindhoven, thrashed Sparta Rotterdam 6-1, Ellerman scoring twice, allowing them briefly to overtake Ajax at the top of the Dutch first division. A day later, Ajax beat Heerenveen 4-1, to regain

their one-point advantage.

In Spain, Toshack's position was improved by two goals from Burroughs which gave Real Madrid a 2-1 win against Espanol. He was also helped by Borge, the team which precipitated the crisis by beating Real last week. They drew with the leaders, Barcelona, at Nou Camp, allowing Real to move within three points.

Barcelona had won all their home matches until then. Gothenburg won the Swedish championship on Saturday by drawing 0-0 at home to Norrby. In the second leg of the final play-off, they had won the first leg 3-0.

OVERSEAS RESULTS AND LEADING POSITIONS

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS CUP (Semi-finals): Nigeria 2-0 Senegal, Nigeria 2-0 Senegal. (Final): Nigeria 2-0 Senegal. (Semi-finals): Nigeria 2-0 Senegal, Nigeria 2-0 Senegal. (Final): Nigeria 2-0 Senegal.

ASIAN CHAMPIONS CUP (Semi-finals): Japan 2-0 Korea, Japan 2-0 Korea. (Final): Japan 2-0 Korea. (Semi-finals): Japan 2-0 Korea, Japan 2-0 Korea. (Final): Japan 2-0 Korea.

CONCACAF CHAMPIONS CUP (Semi-finals): Mexico 2-0 Costa Rica, Mexico 2-0 Costa Rica. (Final): Mexico 2-0 Costa Rica. (Semi-finals): Mexico 2-0 Costa Rica, Mexico 2-0 Costa Rica. (Final): Mexico 2-0 Costa Rica.

OFC CHAMPIONS CUP (Semi-finals): New Zealand 2-0 Australia, New Zealand 2-0 Australia. (Final): New Zealand 2-0 Australia. (Semi-finals): New Zealand 2-0 Australia, New Zealand 2-0 Australia. (Final): New Zealand 2-0 Australia.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP (Semi-finals): Real Madrid 2-0 Bayern Munich, Real Madrid 2-0 Bayern Munich. (Final): Real Madrid 2-0 Bayern Munich. (Semi-finals): Real Madrid 2-0 Bayern Munich, Real Madrid 2-0 Bayern Munich. (Final): Real Madrid 2-0 Bayern Munich.

UEFA CHAMPIONS CUP (Semi-finals): Liverpool 2-0 Ajax, Liverpool 2-0 Ajax. (Final): Liverpool 2-0 Ajax. (Semi-finals): Liverpool 2-0 Ajax, Liverpool 2-0 Ajax. (Final): Liverpool 2-0 Ajax.

CONCACAF CHAMPIONS CUP (Semi-finals): Mexico 2-0 Costa Rica, Mexico 2-0 Costa Rica. (Final): Mexico 2-0 Costa Rica. (Semi-finals): Mexico 2-0 Costa Rica, Mexico 2-0 Costa Rica. (Final): Mexico 2-0 Costa Rica.

OFC CHAMPIONS CUP (Semi-finals): New Zealand 2-0 Australia, New Zealand 2-0 Australia. (Final): New Zealand 2-0 Australia. (Semi-finals): New Zealand 2-0 Australia, New Zealand 2-0 Australia. (Final): New Zealand 2-0 Australia.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

730 unless stated
Barclays League
Second division: West Bromwich v Middlesbrough...
Rumbelows Cup
Third round replays
Preston v Sheffield (7.45)...
Leyland Cup
Preliminary round
Bolton v Tranmere...
GM Vauxhall Conference
Championship Shield
Barrow v Darlington...

WEEKLY WINNER LEAGUE: Presidents Cup: First round, second leg: Bury v Walsley...
WIDEN FARM CUP: First round, second leg: Walsley v Walsley...
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RACING

Joint Sovereignty chasing repeat Mackeson success

By CHRISTOPHER GOULDING

JOINT Sovereignty, winner of last year's Mackeson Gold Cup, heads the 19 five-day acceptors for the valuable 2½-mile chase at Chesham on Sunday.

David Landi, assistant trainer to John Wilson at Ayr, confirmed yesterday: "He is a definite runner and is primed for Saturday's race. I should think Logan Wier will ride."

Mackeson has the strongest hand in the £50,000 handicap, an increase of £15,000 on last year — with Wingspan, Fu's Lady and Skipping Tim.

The season's leading trainer confirmed Skipping Tim, a winner at Wolverhampton yesterday, a definite runner along with Wingspan. Corals make Skipping Tim a 16-1 chance with Fu's Lady 6-1 favourite and Wingspan on 12-1.

Katabatic, who was installed the 7-1 favourite when the weights were announced last week, has been taking out of the betting and is likely to miss the race if the first ground persists.

"Katabatic won't run unless we get some rain," said Andrew Turrell yesterday. "It's as simple as that. I just can't risk a horse of his calibre on firm ground."

Richard Dunwoody, who was booked for Katabatic, is expected to renew his partnership with last Wednesday's Newbury winner, Than-An-Bart, if the rain does not arrive.

Gordon Richards, who won the race in 1979 with Man Alive, could be represented by both Clever Folly and Highfirth. "Clever Folly will definitely run," Joan Richards, the trainer's wife, said yesterday. "I should think the horse will wait until Friday before he decides about Highfirth."

New Haven, winner of the Midway Of Flete over the Mackeson course and distance at the festival last March, was one of the best-backed horses with Corals and is now a 7-1 chance from an original 10-1.

CHILDREN'S ACCEPTORS

1.55 MACKESON GOLD CUP (Handicap: Grade III: £30,000 add-on: 2m 40) (19 five-day declarations)

1.55 JACKSON GOLD CUP (Handicap; Grade III; 230,000,000; 2m 40) (19 five-day declarations)	
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Desert Orchid to foil talented rivals

By MANDARIN

DESERT Orchid, fast approaching his twelfth birthday, can show he is as good as ever by accounting for two talented rivals in a mouth-watering Plymouth Gin Haldon Gold Challenge Cup Chase at Devon and Exeter today.

While David Elsworth, his trainer, and Richard Burridge, the principal owner, have in the last week expressed confidence that the nation's equine idol has retained all his ability and enthusiasm, they have also stressed that a record fourth victory in the King George VI Rank Chase, more than seven weeks hence, is his primary objective for the first half of the season.

However, there is no doubt that Desert Orchid is the type of horse who comes to hand quickly after the summer recess and he has won on his reappearance in which the last four seasons. In addition, today's grade two prize is



Burridge believes Desert Orchid retains his ability

certainly worth winning in its own right.

The distance of two miles and a furlong is arguably some way short of his optimum these days and, indeed, one of his two defeats last season came over two miles at Sandown where he failed to concede two stone to Long Engagement.

The fact remains, though,

that he is officially rated 19lb and 27lb superior respectively to his two principal opponents today. Waterloo Boy and Sabin Du Loir.

With David Nicholson's string in fine form, Waterloo Boy will be fancied to upset Desert Orchid over a distance which favours him. However, the Champion Chase runner-up has been beaten on his reappearance in two of the last three seasons and won by only a head on the first run of 1988-89, receiving 6lb from the runner-up. A claim, in a run-of-the-mill handicap chase.

Waterloo Boy had Sabin Du Loir 7½ lengths behind in fourth when beaten half a length by Barnbrook Again in the Champion Chase in March but had earlier been beaten 27½ lengths by Martin Pipe's versatile performer in the Arlington Premier Series Chase Final in January.

The feeling persists that Sabin Du Loir may have

been slightly over the top by the time the National Hunt Festival came round and he is marginally preferred to Waterloo Boy for forecast purposes.

Best of the supporting races at Devon is the Whitbread Pub Partnerships Handicap Chase in which Golden Fox is expected to confirm his superiority over Royal Battery.

My selection had Royal Battery 20 lengths back in fourth when a head second to Bizzaz Motors in a valuable Ascot novice chase in April yet receives 2lb from his old rival here.

However Waterloo Boy fires at Devon, David Nicholson should be on the mark at Hereford where Springhead (2.0), Fast Study (2.30) and Banbridge (3.0) appear as likely winners for the Concorde trainer.

For the day's best bet, though, go to Nottingham where Change The Name has

round in the Tyne Handicap Hurdle.

This four stayer's last two runs can be safely ignored as he was partnered by an inexperienced lady amateur at Kelso last time and previously ran over fences.

Prior to that he had failed by half a length to concede 17lb at Perth to the useful Jaunty Gig, who completed a four-timer at Wetherby on Saturday. With the talented Paul Midgley, who rode him at Perth, taking 7lb off his back, Change The Name has strong claims in this company.

On the flat at Hamilton, Malmar can gain his first victory for 19 months in the Finishing Post Sprint Handicap. Formerly with Richard Shaw, Malmar is having his first run for Mark Tompkins today.

My other principal fancy at the Scottish track is Past The Lily (1.0), who finished a promising fourth to Aryll on her Leicester debut last week.

Whitbread to expand sponsorship

WHITBREAD & Company, sponsor of the last big steeplechase of the season at Sandown in April, is to expand its support to the whole day's racing.

The brewers became racing's first commercial sponsor in 1957 when the Whitbread Gold Cup was inaugurated and have now increased their backing to cover the six supporting races.

The group will, Derby 1991, previously known as the Grand

Classic Trial will carry guaranteed prize-money of £60,000 and be known as the Thresher Classic Trial after the firm's official chairman.

Among the winners of this race in the last 12 years have been Troy, Henbit, Shergar and Shahrastani, who all went on to greater glory at Epsom, Old Vic, last year's winner, subsequently took the French and Irish Derbys.

The day's other group three race, the CCH Gordon Richards EBF Stakes, will carry £40,000 guaranteed prize-money and will be sponsored by the company's Country Club Hotel chain.

The other races are the TGI Friday's Handicap (formerly the Esher Cup), the Pizza Hut Maiden Stakes, the Lansbury Stakes and a National Hunt flat race which will be dedicated to the Royal Veterinary College.

NOTTINGHAM

Selections

By Mandarin

1.15 Failand, 1.45 Jinky Jack, 2.15 Lilac Time.

2.45 Clear Call, 3.15 CHANGE THE NAME (nephew), 4.45 Firm Price, 4.15 Daunou.

Michael Seely's selection: 1.45 Jinky Jack.

Going: good to firm (chase course); good (hurdles)

1.15 GOLDWICK NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (E1,380: 2m) (15 runners)

1. KANDAMU 20 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.
2. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.
3. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.
4. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.
5. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.

1.45 STOUR NOVICES CHASE (E2,156: 2m) (5 runners)

1. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.
2. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.
3. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.
4. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.
5. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.

2.15 LAKE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HURDLE (E1,786: 2m) (19 runners)

1. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.
2. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.
3. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.
4. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.
5. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.

2.45 BASS WEST OF ENGLAND JUVENILE SELLING HURDLE (E1,702: 2m) (11 runners)

1. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.
2. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.
3. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.
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5. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.

3.15 WHITBREAD PUB PARTNERSHIPS HANDICAP CHASE (E2,703: 3m) (7 runners)

1. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.
2. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.
3. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.
4. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.
5. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.

3.45 TOLCHARD'S HANDICAP HURDLE (E2,322: 2m) (17 runners)

1. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.
2. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.
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3.45 TOLCHARD'S HANDICAP HURDLE (E2,322: 2m) (17 runners)

1. BAWMAN 17 (N. Tinker) 11-5. M. H. 11-5.
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3.15 WHITBREAD PUB PARTNERSHIPS HANDICAP CHASE (E2,703: 3m) (7 runners)

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3.45 TOLCHARD'S HANDICAP HURDLE (E2,322: 2m) (17 runners)

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2.45 BMW SERIES CHASE (E3,843: 3m) (2 runners)

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Victory the name of the Games

Selectors will look closely at A team

By CHRIS THAU

VIEWED initially as just another midweek game sandwiched between the two internationals, today's match between France A and the New Zealand touring party has acquired, in the aftermath of the French collapse in Nantes additional significance.

The French team for the second international in Paris will be announced after the match tonight and after the first performance in Nantes. Several positions are up for grabs.

Several of the French players on the bench last weekend played in today's game. Prop forward Jean-Louis Pujolle, the veteran second-row forward Jean Condom, and both flankers, Philippe Benetton and the lesser-known Gilbert Pages, would be in contention for the match on Saturday. If Condom is brought in to anchor the shaky French scrum, his sturdy pres-

By David Hands

deception of the scrum man, Hubin Hueber, could find themselves in the wilderness after tonight's French selection meeting. Pragmatic reasons prevent the French coach, Daniel Dubroca, from making wholesale changes. The New Zealanders, with their earlier tour setback and worries safely be-

The teenaged prop, Olo Brown, joined the party and makes his first All Black appearance today and the centre, Joe Hanley, has been appointed captain for the game which would be his last appearance for New Zealand.

BARRY TROWBRIDGE
views the third round of
Provincial Insurance Cup

the Charlton brothers, but will be worth avoiding when they draw for the fourth round in the FA Cup on Tuesday night. It is made tomorrow. As one of the sides in the competition is the "default" — a Northumberland club below them having declined the invitation — they ceased through the first two rounds, but as the winners of Durham-Northumberland last winter, are necessarily playing a higher standard, week-to-week than most others still involved.

Having enjoyed the most sides in the competition for a 68-year history last season, the warmed to the challenge of North Shields and breezes

NORTH DIVISION: Region 1: So

enham, who hosted Barnet, of Herefordshire 1. After 80 minutes the score was 25-25, a draw, when the referee called the game to Thameuses on the basis of them having scored three tries to Barnet's two. Correctly, Barnet objected and demanded extra-time, during which Mike Palmer, their centre, kicked a penalty goal and raised rays from an inspiration which he converted himself.

Having lost three men injured — only two of whom could be replaced — a minute left for the last ten minutes of normal time, and their flanker, Richard Morris, who was sent off for retaliation after an hour. Barnet's resilience cannot be questioned. For once, 13 — men, that

VOLLEYBALL

Brixton's chances look good

By a CORRESPONDENT
WOOLWICH Brixton Kn have the chance of breaking ground for the English women's club game when they meet Sandnes, the Norwegian club

By ROBERT KISLEY

homecoming from five away games. Craig Heyward and Ruben Mayes combined for 236 rushing yards, including a short touchdown each, as New Orleans dumped the Bengals 21-7. Minnesota ended a five-game losing streak by beating Denver 27-22. Terance Mathis, a rookie, equalled a league record with a 98-yard punt return for a touchdown as the New York Jets beat Dallas 24-9.

THE future of Des Fitzgerald as Ireland's tight-head prop is in the melting pot (George Ace writes). Fitzgerald was missing from the Lansdowne pack that took Instonians apart at the weekend in an all-Ireland league first division game.

The reason given was "business commitments" but the rumour was that Fitzgerald was simply not selected. After the performance of the Lansdowne pack, and particularly the front row of Clancy, Burns and McKen (Fitzgerald's replacement), it will be a surprise if he is named in the team to meet the Constitution on Saturday.

BY HENRY KELLY

IN WHAT could be construed as gross dereliction of duty to this column, on Sunday last at noon I forsook the comfort and safety of my own home to travel to White Hart Lane to watch Tottenham Hotspur play a version of soccer football and Liverpool play quite a different game on the same pitch at the same time

your manager whinges after the game, then if you're a

Mr Venables was later quoted as quoting Bill Nicholson; I looked up all my old Spurs books and programmes and I couldn't find any trace of Bill Nicholson advertising a board game, taking part in television advertisements, or writing thrillers. In his day, Spurs were so boring they used to win things like the League and the Cup.

The contrast between the last two weekends of sport on television could not have been greater. Ten days ago I watched as black Englishmen and white Englishmen embraced each other for a lap of honour as England's rugby league players beat Australia. Minutes later, Protestant Irishmen and Catholic Irish-

men embraced each other as they managed to hold on and beat Argentina at Lansdowne Road. Is it too sentimental to have found in those little gestures some metaphor from sport which could be passed into our lives? Then this past weekend I watched as an 18-year-old Argentinian waltzed into a tall Englishman and laid him out cold.

Am I the only one who is getting fed up to the back teeth with what's happening on and off the field of a variety of sports? Managers moaning about referees; players thumping each other; so-called super-stars turning up here, there and everywhere except where they are needed — on the field of play.

In all this debate, television does us a good service because, far from putting referees and umpires under pressure, it helps to expose the frauds among sportsmen for what they are: cheats at second-rates. Incidentally, I have yet to hear a serious sports official, say Dickie Bird or George Courtney, complain about television and mutter that it puts them under pressure. Men like that simply set on with it.

For an Irishman, remembering the score from last week in Dublin, the result from Twickenham on Saturday was frightening. Since Ireland beat the Pumas by a lucky few points and England sneaked home 51 points to nil, this clearly means that Ireland will win this year's triple crown and grand slam!

live on the telly on Saturday afternoon, but going through the Argentinians like a knife through butter will not be the same against the home countries or France. I can only follow such an obvious remark by pointing to the hapless Nigel Starmer-Smith, who surely is worth a study all to himself.

Midway through Saturday afternoon at Twickers, the score from Nantes came through showing New Zealand 24, France 3. Summoning up all his years of rugby and broadcasting experience, Nigel, bless him, said: "There you are; you must never underestimate the All Blacks in a Test match." Good on yer, Nigel, you make the licence fee well worth the money.

A few questions were answered over the weekend such as: how to ensure an English tennis player wins something; have a few competitions only for the English. So well done Jo Durie and Jeremy Bates, Nigel Mansell the auctioneer of motor sport (going, going . . . new contract!), came second in Australia and Sky and British Satellite broadcasting agreed.

I have not, nor will I, pay attention to the political mutterings about the merger since I never yet met a government or opposition that had the best interest of broadcasting at heart. On sport and sporting matters, I will say this: if the various brains that exist in Sky and BSB get together without prejudice to provide one unified top-class sports service, then they will wipe the floor with the more established sports coverage.

So long as they concentrate on track sport and leave-out truck racing and my old pal, Miss Dynamite, who wraps herself up in a box which is then blown to smithereens, they will succeed.



MADRID: Official posters for the 1992 Olympic

Games in Barcelona were unveiled in Madrid yesterday (Harry Debelius writes).

Baron de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympics, said that it was not the winning that counted. It was the taking part, but that did not prevent Eric Satie's painting of five upraised hands making the victory sign winning a design contest. Pictured above, it is one of the four principal designs in the Olympics collection, the other three by the abstract artist, created another of the principal posters, as did Josep Trias, whose design depicts the official logo of the Barcelona Olympics, consisting of three

The complete set of posters will include 12 more Olympic designs, 10 reproductions of paintings on the Olympic theme, 28 posters of specific sports, and one showing the 1992 Games pictograms. Three million posters will be distributed throughout the world through national Olympic committees, international sports federations, and Spanish embassies, consulates and tourist offices.

AMERICAN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	D	PF
East division				
Atlanta Dolphins	7	1	0	175
Buffalo Bills	7	1	0	228
Indianapolis Colts	6	2	0	165
Minnesota Vikings	6	2	0	106
New England Patriots	5	3	0	122
Central division				
Chicago Bengals	5	4	0	212
Cleveland Browns	5	4	0	190
Houston Oilers	4	5	0	192
Green Bay Packers	4	5	0	165
West division				
Los Angeles Rams	5	4	0	194
San Diego Chargers	5	4	0	190
San Francisco 49ers	4	5	0	150
Seattle Seahawks	4	5	0	148
NATIONAL CONFERENCE				
East division				
New York Giants	6	0	0	171
Philadelphia Eagles	5	1	0	165
Pittsburgh Steelers	5	1	0	169
Washington Redskins	5	1	0	109
Central division				
Chicago Bears	4	0	0	197
Dallas Cowboys	4	0	0	163
Denver Broncos	4	0	0	167
San Francisco 49ers	3	0	0	147
West division				
San Francisco 49ers	4	0	0	203
Los Angeles Rams	4	0	0	136
Seattle Seahawks	3	0	0	138
San Diego Chargers	3	0	0	137



In modern tennis there is more to winning than how the player shapes up on the day. Carbon fibre rackets. Hi-tech tennis shoes. Each play their part in deciding the ultimate winner. And so with Rado watches. With its scratch-resistant finish and ergonomic features, every Rado watch is designed to perform faultlessly. Meeting the challenges of daily life and winning every time



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IN BRIEF
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Daley's fitness lifts Villa's spirits for return against Inter

By CHRIS MOORE

ASTON Villa last night received the encouragement both they and English football in general, were hoping for with the confirmation that Tony Daley, their fleet-footed winger, will be fit for tomorrow night's UEFA Cup return leg with Inter Milan in the San Siro stadium.

It was Daley's explosive pace as much as anything which unsettled the Italians in Birmingham two weeks ago when Villa earned the admiration of the nation for their accomplished 2-0 victory.

It would have been a big blow to them had the ankle injury Daley sustained at Chelsea on Saturday — when he had to be substituted in the second half — kept him out of the second leg. But after a

Wilson recalled to Bingham's squad

THE Chelsea forward, Kevin Wilson, returns to the Northern Ireland squad for the European championship group four qualifying game against Austria in Vienna on November 14. Wilson, who missed the 1-1 draw with Denmark last month because he had broken fingers, replaces Colin Hogg, of Sheffield United, who has a hamstring injury.

The manager, Billy Bingham, has reduced his squad from 18 to 17, and Hogg would probably have been omitted anyway to make way for Wilson, who scored against Norway and Uruguay last season.

The Glenavon forward, Stephen McBride, has been retained, which means he must withdraw from the Irish League side which meets the Football League at Windsor Park, Belfast, 24 hours later.

The Everton midfielder, Norman Whiteside, and Michael O'Neill, of Dundee United, are still missing as they recover from injury.

"I am carefully monitoring the position with them and they remain part of the Irish set-up," Bingham said. He has been satisfied with the team's recent

Aldershot to decide on future of Trethewy

By LOUISE TAYLOR

ALDERSHOT is to hold a board meeting tomorrow or on Thursday morning to determine the future of Spencer Trethewy, a 19-year-old property developer, from Surrey, whose directorship of the fourth division club has been suspended.

Trethewy's cash pledge of £200,000 saved Aldershot from being wound up in the High Court in August, but while the club has received the money from Trethewy, the directors borrowed heavily to mount the rescue package, and is now behind with repayments on loans of his own.

John Pollard, the Aldershot secretary, yesterday said: "Certain of Mr Trethewy's undertakings have not been met. He has until later this week to get his financial house in order. If he does not, the board will probably decide to revoke his suspension, if not, his future with the club, if any, will be determined at the board meeting. But as far as the football club is concerned, it is business as usual. We are not owed any money."

Paul Barrett, the administrator who was placed in charge of the club at the time of their High Court appearance, said: "As far as I am concerned

all the financial obligations made to Aldershot are in place. The funds I had to distribute through the account have been made available and the source of them is no concern of mine. I have no reason to believe I will be drawn into the matter again."

On Sunday, Trethewy said that he was "slightly behind" on repayment of a loan from Dr Alan Gillespie, the club doctor, which had enabled him to make the first instalment of £100,000 on his investment in the club, but that he expected to settle the loan with interest in the "not too distant future."

Trethewy said: "I remain on good terms with Colin Hancock, the Aldershot chairman, and although there are still a number of matters to be tied up, I am optimistic this can be achieved and that in the near future I can continue my involvement in the club."

Hancock yesterday said: "I have talked to Spencer and he is a father a lot over the weekend and I believe that there is the will on Spencer's part to honour his commitments, and there is financial support on my part to leave the door open for a dignified re-entry."

IN BRIEF

Refereeing enquiry

THE Rugby Football League (RFL) will hold an enquiry into the refereeing mix-up at Sunday's game between Wigan and Oldham. Stuart Cummings, a grade-two referee, had to be summoned from the terraces to officiate when Ray Tennant, the referee, did not arrive.

An RFL official said yesterday that there appeared to have been a breakdown in communication.

CYCLING: Pete Longbottom took 3min 40sec off the Road Records Association 50-mile record of 1hr 33min 22sec.

TENNIS: Monica Seles beat Martina Navratilova for the third consecutive time to capture the Virginia Slims of California title, 6-3, 7-6.

BOXING: A benefit show is being held in Norwich next Monday for Mark Galloway, who suffered a blood clot in his brain after winning a bantamweight title contest last March.

REAL TENNIS: Penny Fellows, the women's world champion, beat the experienced Colin Dean for the loss of only three games in the match between the Ladies' Real Tennis Association and the Tennis Association at Queen's Club. Alison Cockcroft scored a tense victory over Andrew Myrtle.

TABLE TENNIS: Chris Barram, of Nene College, is the leading medal contender in the British team that left yesterday for the world student championships in Hungary.

British stars include: C Barram (Nene College), M Ward (Huddersfield Polytechnic), S Worrell (Loughborough University), H Purton (Bath University), L Hood (Aberdeen University).

Scotland take a new role

By RODDY FORSYTH

IF SCOTLAND are in the unenviable and certainly unaccustomed role of favourites to qualify for the finals of the European championships for the first time, Andy Roxburgh, the coach, is under no illusions about the flimsiness of any supposition that much of the hard work has been accomplished. "If you can win your home matches and take a point from each of your away games in this section you would assume that you would be pretty close to getting through," he said yesterday, after revealing his squad for next week's meeting with Bulgaria in Sofia.

"We're entitled to be pleased with the beginning we have made, beating Romania and Switzerland at Hampden but it is in Sofia that we can really do ourselves a favour. A win is the ideal result, of course, but a draw would be very satisfactory from our point of view."

When the Scots last travelled to Sofia three years ago, the Bulgarians needed only a single point to move into the finals of the European championship, but Gary Mackay's late winning goal meant that the Republic of Ireland went to West Germany instead.

For the Bulgarians, too, defeat by the Scots had weighty consequences. "We felt really sorry for the people there at that time because they were really on a high and we effectively destroyed them for quite a while," Roxburgh said. "They actually finished bottom of their World Cup qualifying group after that and they had a dismal run which took them a long time to remedy. But now they're looking the part again, especially after the win in Bucharest where they beat Romania 3-0."

Brian McCall, of Manchester United, who has not played since Argentina visited Hampden for an international fixture six months ago, has been recalled.

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Swindon may end the waiting for Lorenzo

By LOUISE TAYLOR

NESTOR Lorenzo, the Argentine international defender, could make his debut for Swindon Town in the Rumbelows Cup third round replay with Sheffield Wednesday at the County Ground tonight.

The second division side, managed by Osvaldo Ardiles, a former Argentine international, has signed Lorenzo, who played at Swindon in the World Cup finals, on loan from Bari, the Italian club, for the remainder of the season. Lorenzo broke his toe in his first game for the club and has had to wait until now for inclusion in the first team squad.

Chelsea, who face a replay at Portsmouth, will give Kerry Dixon a late fitness test in his injured hamstring injury. Dave Beasant is again expected to be sidelined by a broken finger. Kevin Hitchcock continues to deputise in goal.

Portsmouth, who held their first division crown to a 0-0 draw last week, are hoping Gavin Maguire and Warren Neil, both defenders, will pass fitness tests.

The draw was made yesterday for the second round of the FA Vase.

DRAW: Bridlington Town v Blackpool (Replay); Rotherham v Grimsby Town; Hartlepool v Chester-le-Str.

Boxing is kids' stuff for Benn



PARLIAMENT returns tomorrow but it was business as usual yesterday under Big Ben — for who else but Nigel Benn (Srikumar Sen writes).

Bernie Grant, the Labour MP for Tottenham, latched Benn's tour of inner city schools just two weeks before the World Boxing Championships in Manila. Benn, who is the title against Chris Eubank, of Brighton, at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, on November 18.

Nigel "I'm Gonna Get 'Em" Benn, who could make about £1 million if the NEC is sold out, will be taking a message of hope to the children of Brixton, Tottenham, Moss Side, Manchester and Ladywood, Birmingham. The champion said: "I want to show kids that I came from the streets and show them that you can achieve something if you put your mind to it."

Champion just wants to have fun

By JOHN HENNESSY

SHARON Coulson, aged only 14, was a convincing winner of the Skate Electric British junior ice skating championship at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, yesterday. With a programme containing only one unimportant slip, she was placed first by all seven judges.

Coulson, of Whitby Bay, had won the original programme section the day before. She is one of the skaters to profit from the abolition of the compulsory figures.

Coulson skated a well varied programme, featuring two excellent double axels, and her

single loop, where she projected a double, was unexpected. She said that the music had seemed to be too fast and she had not been ready for the take-off.

A mistake by Clive Shorten (Queens) allowed Stuart Bell (Salford) to win the junior men's original programme.

Shorten executed a superb triple Salchow in the combination but had allowed himself too little room for the mandatory double jump.

Even so, Bell, aged 15, was a worthy winner, with a gruffing degree of artistry between the

various elements. Perhaps he finds inspiration from the fact that he hails from Birmingham.

John Curry country.

RESULTS: Women's Free Skating: 1, S Coulson (Whitby Bay), 15.5; 2, S Coulson (Queens), 14.5; 3, S Coulson (Queens), 14.0; 4, S Coulson (Queens), 13.5; 5, S Coulson (Queens), 13.0; 6, S Coulson (Queens), 12.5; 7, S Coulson (Queens), 12.0; 8, S Coulson (Queens), 11.5; 9, S Coulson (Queens), 11.0; 10, S Coulson (Queens), 10.5; 11, S Coulson (Queens), 10.0; 12, S Coulson (Queens), 9.5; 13, S Coulson (Queens), 9.0; 14, S Coulson (Queens), 8.5; 15, S Coulson (Queens), 8.0; 16, S Coulson (Queens), 7.5; 17, S Coulson (Queens), 7.0; 18, S Coulson (Queens), 6.5; 19, S Coulson (Queens), 6.0; 20, S Coulson (Queens), 5.5; 21, S Coulson (Queens), 5.0; 22, S Coulson (Queens), 4.5; 23, S Coulson (Queens), 4.0; 24, S Coulson (Queens), 3.5; 25, S Coulson (Queens), 3.0; 26, S Coulson (Queens), 2.5; 27, S Coulson (Queens), 2.0; 28, S Coulson (Queens), 1.5; 29, S Coulson (Queens), 1.0; 30, S Coulson (Queens), 0.5.

RESULTS: Men's Free Skating: 1, S Coulson (Whitby Bay), 15.5; 2, S Coulson (Queens), 14.5; 3, S Coulson (Queens), 14.0; 4, S Coulson (Queens), 13.5; 5, S Coulson (Queens), 13.0; 6, S Coulson (Queens), 12.5; 7, S Coulson (Queens), 12.0; 8, S Coulson (Queens), 11.5; 9, S Coulson (Queens), 11.0; 10, S Coulson (Queens), 10.5; 11, S Coulson (Queens), 10.0; 12, S Coulson (Queens), 9.5; 13, S Coulson (Queens), 9.0; 14, S Coulson (Queens), 8.5; 15, S Coulson (Queens), 8.0; 16, S Coulson (Queens), 7.5; 17, S Coulson (Queens), 7.0; 18, S Coulson (Queens), 6.5; 19, S Coulson (Queens), 6.0; 20, S Coulson (Queens), 5.5; 21, S Coulson (Queens), 5.0; 22, S Coulson (Queens), 4.5; 23, S Coulson (Queens), 4.0; 24, S Coulson (Queens), 3.5; 25, S Coulson (Queens), 3.0; 26, S Coulson (Queens), 2.5; 27, S Coulson (Queens), 2.0; 28, S Coulson (Queens), 1.5; 29, S Coulson (Queens), 1.0; 30, S Coulson (Queens), 0.5.

RESULTS: Men's Short Program: 1, S Coulson (Whitby Bay), 15.5; 2, S Coulson (Queens), 14.5; 3, S Coulson (Queens), 14.0; 4, S Coulson (Queens), 13.5; 5, S Coulson (Queens), 13.0; 6, S Coulson (Queens), 12.5; 7, S Coulson (Queens), 12.0; 8, S Coulson (Queens), 11.5; 9, S Coulson (Queens), 11.0; 10, S Coulson (Queens), 10.5; 11, S Coulson (Queens), 10.0; 12, S Coulson (Queens), 9.5; 13, S Coulson (Queens), 9.0; 14, S Coulson (Queens), 8.5; 15, S Coulson (Queens), 8.0; 16, S Coulson (Queens), 7.5; 17, S Coulson (Queens), 7.0; 18, S Coulson (Queens), 6.5; 19, S Coulson (Queens), 6.0; 20, S Coulson (Queens), 5.5; 21, S Coulson (Queens), 5.0; 22, S Coulson (Queens), 4.5; 23, S Coulson (Queens), 4.0; 24, S Coulson (Queens), 3.5; 25, S Coulson (Queens), 3.0; 26, S Coulson (Queens), 2.5; 27, S Coulson (Queens), 2.0; 28, S Coulson (Queens), 1.5; 29, S Coulson (Queens), 1.0; 30, S Coulson (Queens), 0.5.

RESULTS: Women's Short Program: 1, S Coulson (Whitby Bay), 15.5; 2, S Coulson (Queens), 14.5; 3, S Coulson (Queens), 14.0; 4, S Coulson (Queens), 13.5; 5, S Coulson (Queens), 13.0; 6, S Coulson (Queens), 12.5; 7, S Coulson (Queens), 12.0; 8, S Coulson (Queens), 11.5; 9, S Coulson (Queens), 11.0; 10, S Coulson (Queens), 10.5; 11, S Coulson (Queens), 10.0; 12, S Coulson (Queens), 9.5; 13, S Coulson (Queens), 9.0; 14, S Coulson (Queens), 8.5; 15, S Coulson (Queens), 8.0; 16, S Coulson (Queens), 7.5; 17, S Coulson (Queens), 7.0; 18, S Coulson (Queens), 6.5; 19, S Coulson (Queens), 6.0; 20, S Coulson (Queens), 5.5; 21, S Coulson (Queens), 5.0; 22, S Coulson (Queens), 4.5; 23, S Coulson (Queens), 4.0; 24, S Coulson (Queens), 3.5; 25, S Coulson (Queens), 3.0; 26, S Coulson (Queens), 2.5; 27, S Coulson (Queens), 2.0; 28, S Coulson (Queens), 1.5; 29, S Coulson (Queens), 1.0; 30, S Coulson (Queens), 0.5.

RESULTS: Men's Long Program: 1, S Coulson (Whitby Bay), 15.5; 2, S Coulson (Queens), 14.5; 3, S Coulson (Queens), 14.0; 4, S Coulson (Queens), 13.5; 5, S Coulson (Queens), 13.0; 6, S Coulson (Queens), 12.5; 7, S Coulson (Queens), 12.0; 8, S Coulson (Queens), 11.5; 9, S Coulson (Queens), 11.0; 10, S Coulson (Queens), 10.5; 11, S Coulson (Queens), 10.0; 12, S Coulson (Queens), 9.5; 13, S Coulson (Queens), 9.0; 14, S Coulson (Queens), 8.5; 15, S Coulson (Queens), 8.0; 16, S Coulson (Queens), 7.5; 17, S Coulson (Queens), 7.0; 18, S Coulson (Queens), 6.5; 19, S Coulson (Queens), 6.0; 20, S Coulson (Queens), 5.5; 21, S Coulson (Queens), 5.0; 22, S Coulson (Queens), 4.5; 23, S Coulson (Queens), 4.0; 24, S Coulson (Queens), 3.5; 25, S Coulson (Queens), 3.0; 26, S Coulson (Queens), 2.5; 27, S Coulson (Queens), 2.0; 28, S Coulson (Queens), 1.5; 29, S Coulson (Queens), 1.0; 30, S Coulson (Queens), 0.5.

RESULTS: Women's Long Program: 1, S Coulson (Whitby Bay), 15.5; 2, S Coulson (Queens), 14.5; 3, S Coulson (Queens), 14.0; 4, S Coulson (Queens), 13.5; 5, S Coulson (Queens), 13.0; 6, S Coulson (Queens), 12.5; 7, S Coulson (Queens), 12.0; 8, S Coulson (Queens), 11.5; 9, S Coulson (Queens), 11.0; 10, S Coulson (Queens), 10.5; 11, S Coulson (Queens), 10.0; 12, S Coulson (Queens), 9.5; 13, S Coulson (Queens), 9.0; 14, S Coulson (Queens), 8.5; 15, S Coulson (Queens), 8.0; 16, S Coulson (Queens), 7.5; 17, S Coulson (Queens), 7.0; 18, S Coulson (Queens), 6.5; 19, S Coulson (Queens), 6.0; 20, S Coulson (Queens), 5.5; 21, S Coulson (Queens), 5.0; 22, S Coulson (Queens), 4.5; 23, S Coulson (Queens), 4.0; 24, S Coulson (Queens), 3.5; 25, S Coulson (Queens), 3.0; 26, S Coulson (Queens), 2.5; 27, S Coulson (Queens), 2.0; 28, S Coulson (Queens), 1.5; 29, S Coulson (Queens), 1.0; 30, S Coulson (Queens), 0.5.

RESULTS: Men's Pairs: 1, S Coulson (Whitby Bay), 15.5; 2, S Coulson (Queens), 14.5; 3, S Coulson (Queens), 14.0; 4, S Coulson (Queens), 13.5; 5, S Coulson (Queens), 13.0; 6, S Coulson (Queens), 12.5; 7, S Coulson (Queens), 12.0; 8, S Coulson (Queens), 11.5; 9, S Coulson (Queens), 11.0; 10, S Coulson (Queens), 10.5; 11, S Coulson (Queens), 10.0; 12, S Coulson (Queens), 9.5; 13, S Coulson (Queens), 9.0; 14, S Coulson (Queens), 8.5; 15, S Coulson (Queens), 8.0; 16, S Coulson (Queens), 7.5; 17, S Coulson (Queens), 7.0; 18, S Coulson (Queens), 6.5; 19, S Coulson (Queens), 6.0; 20, S Coulson (Queens), 5.5; 21, S Coulson (Queens), 5.0; 22, S Coulson (Queens), 4.5; 23, S Coulson (Queens), 4.0; 24, S Coulson (Queens), 3.5; 25, S Coulson (Queens), 3.0; 26, S Coulson (Queens), 2.5; 27, S Coulson (Queens), 2.0; 28, S Coulson (Queens), 1.5; 29, S Coulson (Queens), 1.0; 30, S Coulson (Queens), 0.5.

RESULTS: Women's Pairs: 1, S Coulson (Whitby Bay), 15.5; 2, S Coulson (Queens), 14.5; 3, S Coulson (Queens), 14.0; 4, S Coulson (Queens), 13.5; 5, S Coulson (Queens), 13.0; 6, S Coulson (Queens), 12.5; 7, S Coulson (Queens), 12.0; 8, S Coulson (Queens), 11.5; 9, S Coulson (Queens), 11.0; 10, S Coulson (Queens), 10.5; 11, S Coulson (Queens), 10.0; 12, S Coulson (Queens), 9.5; 13, S Coulson (Queens), 9.0; 14, S Coulson (Queens), 8.5; 15, S Coulson (Queens), 8.0; 16, S Coulson (Queens), 7.5; 17, S Coulson (Queens), 7.0; 18, S Coulson (Queens), 6.5; 19, S Coulson (Queens), 6.0; 20, S Coulson (Queens), 5.5; 21, S Coulson (Queens), 5.0; 22, S Coulson (Queens), 4.5; 23, S Coulson (Queens), 4.0; 24, S Coulson (Queens), 3.5; 25, S Coulson (Queens), 3.0; 26, S Coulson (Queens), 2.5; 27, S Coulson (Queens), 2.0; 28, S Coulson (Queens), 1.5; 29, S Coulson (Queens), 1.0; 30, S Coulson (Queens), 0.5.

RESULTS: Men's Ice Dance: 1, S Coulson (Whitby Bay), 15.5; 2, S Coulson (Queens), 14.5; 3, S Coulson (Queens), 14.0; 4, S Coulson (Queens), 13.5; 5, S Coulson (Queens), 13.0; 6, S Coulson (Queens), 12.5; 7, S Coulson (Queens), 12.0; 8, S Coulson (Queens), 11.5; 9, S Coulson (Queens), 11.0; 10, S Coulson (Queens), 10.5; 11, S Coulson (Queens), 10.0; 12, S Coulson (Queens), 9.5; 13, S Coulson (Queens), 9.0; 14, S Coulson (Queens), 8.5; 15, S Coulson (Queens), 8.0; 16, S Coulson (Queens), 7.5; 17, S Coulson (Queens), 7.0; 18, S Coulson (Queens), 6.5; 19, S Coulson (Queens), 6.0; 20, S Coulson (Queens), 5.5; 21, S Coulson (Queens), 5.0; 22, S Coulson (Queens), 4.5; 23, S Coulson (Queens), 4.0; 24, S Coulson (Queens), 3.5; 25, S Coulson (Queens), 3.0; 26, S Coulson (Queens), 2.5; 27, S Coulson (Queens), 2.0; 28, S Coulson (Queens), 1.5; 29, S Coulson (Queens), 1.0; 30, S Coulson (Queens), 0.5.

RESULTS: Women's Ice Dance: 1, S Coulson (Whitby Bay), 15.5; 2, S Coulson (Queens), 14.5; 3, S Coulson (Queens), 14.0; 4, S Coulson (Queens), 13.5; 5, S Coulson (Queens), 13.0; 6, S Coulson (Queens), 12.5; 7, S Coulson (Queens), 12.0; 8, S Coulson (Queens), 11.5; 9, S Coulson (Queens), 11.0; 10, S Coulson (Queens), 10.5; 11, S Coulson (Queens), 10.0; 12, S Coulson (Queens), 9.5; 13, S Coulson (Queens), 9.0; 14, S Coulson (Queens), 8.5; 15, S Coulson (Queens), 8.0; 16, S Coulson (Queens), 7.5; 17, S Coulson (Queens), 7.0; 18, S Coulson (Queens), 6.5; 19, S Coulson (Queens), 6.0; 20, S Coulson (Queens), 5.5; 21, S Coulson (Queens), 5.0; 22, S Coulson (Queens), 4.5; 23, S Coulson (Queens), 4.0; 24, S Coulson (Queens), 3.5; 25, S Coulson (Queens), 3.0; 26, S Coulson (Queens), 2.5; 27, S Coulson (Queens), 2.0; 28, S Coulson (Queens), 1.5; 29, S Coulson (Queens), 1.0; 30, S Coulson (Queens), 0.5.

RESULTS: Men's Synchronized: 1, S Coulson (Whitby Bay), 15.5; 2, S Coulson (Queens), 14.5; 3, S Coulson (Queens), 14.0; 4, S Coulson (Queens), 13.5; 5, S Coulson (Queens), 13.0; 6, S Coulson (Queens), 12.5; 7, S Coulson (Queens), 12.0; 8, S Coulson (Queens), 11.5; 9, S Coulson (Queens), 11.0; 10, S Coulson (Queens), 10.5; 11, S Coulson (Queens), 10.0; 12, S Coulson (Queens), 9.5; 13, S Coulson (Queens), 9.0; 14, S Coulson (Queens), 8.5; 15, S Coulson (Queens), 8.0; 16, S Coulson (Queens), 7.5; 17, S Coulson (Queens), 7.0; 18, S Coulson (Queens), 6.5; 19, S Coulson (Queens), 6.0; 20, S Coulson (Queens), 5.5; 21, S Coulson (Queens), 5.0; 22, S Coulson (Queens), 4.5; 23, S Coulson (Queens), 4.0; 24, S Coulson (Queens), 3.5; 25, S Coulson (Queens), 3.0; 26, S Coulson (Queens), 2.5; 27, S Coulson (Queens), 2.0; 28, S Coulson (Queens), 1.5; 29, S Coulson (Queens), 1.0; 30, S Coulson (Queens), 0.5.

RESULTS: Women's Synchronized: 1, S Coulson (Whitby Bay), 15.5; 2, S Coulson (Queens), 14.5; 3, S Coulson (Queens), 14.0; 4, S Coulson (Queens), 13.5; 5, S Coulson (Queens), 13.0; 6, S Coulson (Queens), 12.5; 7, S Coulson (Queens), 12.0; 8, S Coulson (Queens), 11.5; 9, S Coulson (Queens), 11.0; 10, S Coulson (Queens), 10.5; 11, S Coulson (Queens), 10.0; 12, S Coulson (Queens), 9.5; 13, S Coulson (Queens), 9.0; 14, S Coulson (Queens), 8.5; 15, S Coulson (Queens), 8.0; 16, S Coulson (Queens), 7.5; 17, S Coulson (Queens), 7.0; 18, S Coulson (Queens), 6.5; 19, S Coulson (Queens), 6.0; 20, S Coulson (Queens), 5.5; 21, S Coulson (Queens), 5.0; 22, S Coulson (Queens), 4.5; 23, S Coulson (Queens), 4.0; 24, S Coulson (Queens), 3.5; 25, S Coulson (Queens), 3.0; 26, S Coulson (Queens), 2.5; 27, S Coulson (Queens), 2.0; 28, S Coulson (Queens), 1.5; 29, S Coulson (Queens), 1.0; 30, S Coulson (Queens), 0.5.

RESULTS: Men's Mixed: 1, S Coulson (Whitby Bay), 15.5; 2, S Coulson (Queens), 14.5; 3, S Coulson (Queens), 14.0; 4, S Coulson (Queens), 13.5; 5, S Coulson (Queens), 13.0; 6, S Coulson (Queens), 12.5; 7, S Coulson (Queens), 12.0; 8, S Coulson (Queens), 11.5; 9, S Coulson (Queens), 11.0; 10, S Coulson (Queens), 10.5; 11, S Coulson (Queens), 10.0; 12, S Coulson (Queens), 9.5; 13, S Coulson (Queens), 9.0; 14, S Coulson (Queens), 8.5; 15, S Coulson (Queens), 8.0; 16, S Coulson (Queens), 7.5; 17, S Coulson (Queens), 7.0; 18, S Coulson (Queens), 6.5; 19, S Coulson (Queens), 6.0; 20, S Coulson (Queens), 5.5; 21, S Coulson (Queens), 5.0; 22, S Coulson (Queens), 4.5; 23, S Coulson (Queens), 4.0; 24, S Coulson (Queens), 3.5; 25, S Coulson (Queens), 3.0; 26, S Coulson (Queens), 2.5; 27, S Coulson (Queens), 2.0; 28, S Coulson (Queens), 1.5; 29, S Coulson (Queens), 1.0; 30, S Coulson (Queens), 0.5.

RESULTS: Women's Mixed: 1, S Coulson (Whitby Bay), 15.5; 2, S Coulson (Queens), 14.5; 3, S Coulson (Queens), 14.0; 4, S Coulson (Queens), 13.5; 5, S Coulson (Queens), 13.0; 6, S Coulson (Queens), 12.5; 7, S Coulson (Queens), 12.0; 8, S Coulson (Queens), 11.5; 9, S Coulson (Queens), 11.0; 10, S Coulson (Queens), 10.5; 11, S Coulson (Queens), 10.0; 12, S Coulson (Queens), 9.5; 13, S Coulson (Queens), 9.0; 14, S Coulson (Queens), 8.5; 15, S Coulson (Queens), 8.0; 16, S Coulson (Queens), 7.5; 17, S Coulson (Queens), 7.0; 18, S Coulson (Queens), 6.5; 19, S Coulson (Queens), 6.0; 20, S Coulson (Queens), 5.5; 21, S Coulson (Queens), 5.0; 22, S Coulson (Queens), 4.5; 23, S Coulson (Queens), 4.0; 24, S Coulson (Queens), 3.5; 25, S Coulson (Queens), 3.0; 26, S Coulson (Queens), 2.5; 27, S Coulson (Queens), 2.0; 28, S Coulson (Queens), 1.5; 29, S Coulson (Queens), 1.0; 30, S Coulson (Queens), 0.5.

RESULTS: Men's Mixed Pairs: 1, S Coulson (Whitby Bay), 15.5; 2, S Coulson (Queens), 14.5; 3, S Coulson (Queens), 14.0; 4, S Coulson (Queens), 13.5; 5, S Coulson (Queens), 13.0; 6, S Coulson (Queens), 12.5; 7, S Coulson (Queens), 12.0; 8, S Coulson (Queens), 11.5; 9, S Coulson (Queens), 11.0; 10, S Coulson (Queens), 10.5; 11, S Coulson (Queens), 10.0; 12, S Coulson (Queens), 9.5; 13, S Coulson (Queens), 9.0; 14, S Coulson (Queens), 8.5; 15, S Coulson (Queens), 8.0; 16, S Coulson (Queens), 7.5; 17, S Coulson (Queens), 7.0; 18, S Coulson (Queens), 6.5; 19, S Coulson (Queens), 6.0; 20, S Coulson (Queens), 5.5; 21, S Coulson (Queens), 5.0; 22, S Coulson (Queens), 4.5; 23, S Coulson (Queens), 4.0; 24, S Coulson (Queens), 3.5; 25, S Coulson (Queens), 3.0; 26, S Coulson (Queens), 2.5; 27, S Coulson (Queens), 2.0; 28, S Coulson (Queens), 1.5; 29, S Coulson (Queens), 1.0; 30, S Coulson (Queens), 0.5.

RESULTS: Women's Mixed Pairs: 1, S Coulson (Whitby Bay), 15.5; 2, S Coulson (Queens), 14.5

SPORT

Gallacher offered his resignation to save Ryder Cup

By MITCHELL PLATT
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

BERNARD Gallacher yesterday revealed that he had offered his resignation as captain of Europe's next Ryder Cup team in an attempt to end the bitter dispute that still threatens the future of the biennial match against the United States.

Gallacher, appointed successor to Tony Jacklin, made his dramatic disclosure on a day when Johnnie Walker announced a £4 million, four-year sponsorship package to include the matches at Kiawah Island, South Carolina, in 1991 and at The Belfry in 1993.

"I offered my resignation to one side in the hope that it might help

because all I wish is for the match to go ahead and to be played in the correct spirit," Gallacher said.

In fact, Gallacher's offer was not accepted, but the wrangle between the PGA European Tour and the Professional Golfers' Association continues. A contract between them on the organisation of the match has still to be signed. The PGA European Tour will advise their players that no tournament will carry Ryder Cup qualifying points until it has been.

Ken Schofield, executive director of the PGA European Tour, was outraged that the PGA had inserted at the eleventh hour a clause limiting the agreement to 12 years and John Lindsey, the PGA executive director, is equally

concerned that in the case of there being "deadlock" on any dispute that the Ryder Cup will be "killed" for four years.

Lindsey would like to go to arbitration. "I would suggest the secretary of the Royal and Ancient or the Lord Chief Justice," Lindsey said. "The Tour has rejected using an independent figure although I still believe it would provide a sensible solution."

Gallacher, visibly emotional, said: "It's been the worst year of my life. Instead of enjoying the honeymoon period of being captain, it's been a nightmare. I offered my resignation on the grounds that it might help heal the situation. I would certainly not have become captain if I had

known what was going to happen. And I do not believe any captain should ever be put through this kind of thing in the future."

"My captaincy has been seriously hampered and undermined by this festering problem. We simply want a joint venture between the PGA European Tour and the PGA. We want the TV rights, we want the PGA to have the first £750,000 of surplus and we want the remainder split on a 50-50 basis."

"That is the proposal the PGA had from us, and returned to us, but somewhere between 12.15 last Friday and 9.00 this morning the PGA has managed to concoct a 12-year limit. Well, it takes more than a Cup to make a Ryder Cup."

It takes a sponsor like Johnnie Walker and it takes players whom I've tried to shelter from this problem which, I might add, my predecessor, Tony Jacklin, did not have. It is a pity that I have not been able to settle down like Tony to become wholeheartedly involved in making the arrangements which will best help us retain the Cup."

Schofield was given a clear mandate by his players at a meeting on September 4 to act in their best interest and unless the PGA has a change of heart regarding their demand for a 12-year limit then it is understood that Neil Coles, who is due to chair the next Ryder Cup meeting at the end of the month, will not attend.

I understand that the PGA European Tour has consistently put forward a written proposal based on agreement reached around the table but that the PGA has consistently found reason to change the proposal. Lindsey stressed that he felt the golf supporter deserved an answer. "I hope he has one soon," Lindsey said.

There can be little doubt, too, that Johnnie Walker will want an answer. If no agreement is reached and the top European golfers elect not to compete then Johnnie Walker could withdraw from the contract. Ian Ross, the chairman of John Walker and Sons Ltd, is confident that all will be well.



Gallacher: unsettled

Lamb's heroics save England

PERTH (Agencies) — Allan Lamb's courage and Robin Smith's determination combined to help the England cricket team engineer a remarkable escape from defeat in Perth yesterday. Lamb, the vice-captain, having earlier ruled out any chance of batting again after fears that he had broken an arm, returned to the crease with his left elbow heavily bandaged and his side nine wickets down.

He proceeded to help Smith see out the final six-and-a-half overs as England salvaged a draw against Western Australia in the opening first-class fixture of their tour.

Lamb, who retired hurt in the morning after being hit on the point of the elbow by the left-arm fast bowler, Bruce Reid, had to negotiate 15 balls in all, including the last six of the match, bowled by Terry Alderman.

Smith, who finished unbeaten on 98, watched from the other end as his partner put bat to ball five times and allowed the other to pass harmlessly outside off stump.

It was an astonishing reprieve for England, who had looked doomed to a heavy and embarrassing defeat when they were 90 for six. At that stage, there were 54 overs remaining and it seemed only a matter of time before the tourists crumbled. But Smith, supported by the tail-enders, Gladstone Small, Angus Fraser and Devon Malcolm, and then the returning Lamb managed to survive.

Afterwards, Graham

Gooch, the England captain, said: "There are a lot of areas to work on — the work, batting, bowling and fielding. I'm very disappointed with our performance over the four days. We didn't play up to standard. You can make allowances because it was our first big game but I'm not one for making excuses."

"We were below par. The talent is there, we have to make sure it's working properly. There's no magic formula, we must just keep on trying to improve ourselves."

He added: "Getting a draw is a bit of a confidence-booster considering we didn't perform well."

Western Australia had only themselves to blame, however, for not registering their second victory in 23 meetings with England, dating back to 1907. For Smith, who batted for 282 minutes and struck 14 fours, was dropped by the wicketkeeper, Tim Zoehrer, off the bowling of Reid when only 35. Malcolm also escaped twice in the slips during his stand with Smith.

In all, Small (61 minutes), Fraser (65) and Malcolm (43) negotiated almost three hours against an attack that included three of Australia's best fast bowlers, Alderman, Reid and Chris Matthews.

England, having been set 373 to win in a minimum of 80 overs, soon realised that a grim struggle lay ahead as they were reduced to 30 for three with Reid removing Mike Atherton for three and David

Gower for 10 and Alderman sending back Gooch.

But, worse, by then Lamb was on his way to hospital. Having faced two balls, he had tried to turn away from a vicious Reid delivery which nipped back at him and bounced a foot higher than he expected. Lamb immediately dropped his bat and was in obvious pain as the Western Australia players signalled for the England physiotherapist, Laurie Brown. Lamb wanted to continue but was persuaded to leave.

X-rays revealed no fracture, only bad bruising. But the Northamptonshire batsman said: "I thought I might have broken it. The arm went numb for a time but the doctor assures me there is no crack." He added: "I told Robin at tea that if we had any chance of saving the game and he was close to a century I would give it a go. The elbow was very sore but fortunately they didn't bowl short at me."

The cracks in the England batting line-up, however, were there for all to see and when Matthews removed John Morris for 18 and Chris Lewis, who made four, in the space of five balls, the scoreboard read 73 for five. It was 90 for six as Jack Russell, on six, edged a catch behind off Ken MacLeay.

New South Wales made an impressive start to their defence of the Sheffield Shield when they beat Tasmania by an innings and 20 runs in Sydney yesterday. Tasmania were all out for 194 in their second innings, the captain, Dirk Wellham, hitting a top score of 51.

The former South Australian captain, David Hookes, hit the Queensland captain, Trevor Hobbs, for 22 runs in one over during an innings of 195 which took his side to 397 for four and a draw in Brisbane.

West Indies beat a Rest of the World XI by four wickets with three balls to spare in a 50-overs match watched by 22,000 people in the Toronto SkyDome.



Power to his elbow: Allan Lamb bravely returns to save England at Perth yesterday

Royle a firmer favourite than ever for Everton

By IAN ROSS

THE man chosen to help re-establish Everton as a powerful force in English football is expected to be named tomorrow.

Although the Merseyside club is still refusing to discuss the names of those managers who have applied for the post made vacant by the dismissal, last week, of Colin Harvey, the appointment of Joe Royle, who is in charge at Oldham Athletic, is considered likely.

"In the interests of all concerned we expect to make our first official statement within the next 48 hours," Jim Greenwood, the chief executive of Everton, said yesterday. The Everton board of directors will meet at Goodison Park this afternoon to discuss the matter following the return home of Desmond Fletcher, the vice-chairman, who has been abroad on business.

Although Royle has refused to comment on the possibility of a return to the club with which he spent nine years as a player, the uncommon speed with which Everton will secure a replacement for Harvey does suggest that his position as the bookmakers' favourite for the job is not false.

Royle, who last season turned down the chance to succeed Mel Machin as the manager of Manchester City, is believed to have an oral agreement with Ian Stott, the Oldham chairman, which would release him from his contract at Boundary Park to assume control at a "leading first division club".

The appointment of anybody other than Royle would be a surprise, even though several leading managers are believed to have made contact with Everton following the official advertising of the post at the weekend.

Royle's chief rival was Ron Atkinson, the manager of

Sheffield Wednesday, but he has already announced his intention of signing a contract that will keep him at the South Yorkshire club until 1993.

If Royle is given the job, he is likely to seek permission to appoint, as his successor, Willie Donachie, who presently occupies a similar position at Oldham.

Other managers who have been under consideration include Bruce Rioch, of Millwall, Alan Ball, of Stoke City, Arthur Cox, of Derby County, and Martin Dolson, the former Everton player who resigned as the manager of Bury last year.

Bryan Robson, the captain of Manchester United, was also thought to be interested in the post but he was not considered suitable because of his complete lack of managerial experience.

Barcelona will this morning announce whether or not they are prepared to meet Liverpool's asking price for Jan Molby, the Danish international midfielder player.

Having failed to persuade Liverpool to allow Molby to join them on loan, the Spanish club yesterday lodged an official bid of £1.2 million, a figure that is £300,000 below the league champions' valuation.

Molby, aged 27, has refused to sign a new, four-year contract at Anfield and has made it clear that he wishes to leave because of his inability to establish himself in the club's first team.

Although Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager, is always reluctant to sanction the sale of experienced, senior professionals, he is aware that Molby will become a free agent when his contract expires in May next year. Molby joined Liverpool from Ajax in 1984 for a fee of £575,000.

SCOREBOARD FROM PERTH

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: First Innings 289 (G M Wood 108, K H MacLeay 53).	
M R J Valette c Russell b Fraser	77
G R Marsh b Lewis	151
T M Moody c Gower b MacLeay	29
G M Wood not out	28
W S Andrews lbw b Small	10
T T Zoehrer not out	21
Extras (lb 17, nb 5)	22
Total (4 wickets)	329
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-195, 2-272, 3-272, 4-287	
BOWLING: Malcolm 22-6-54-1 (Inns); Fraser 31-8-88-1 (Inns); Small 27-5-71-1; Lewis 18-7-70-1; Atherton 6-1-29-0	

ENGLAND: First Innings 348 (A J Lamb 84, C D Matthews 5 for 68).	
M A Atherton lbw b Reid	3
A J Lamb not out	10
R A Smith not out	96
J G Morris c Hogan b Matthews	16
G O Lewis b Matthews	6
R C Russell c Zoehrer b MacLeay	6
G C Small c Zoehrer b Moody	15
A C Fraser c sub b Alderman	18
D E Malcolm c Zoehrer b Alderman	19
Extras (lb 12, w 1, nb 2)	16
Total (9 wickets)	222
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-22, 3-30, 4-59, 5-73, 6-80, 7-123, 8-178, 9-210	
BOWLING: Alderman 17-4-48-3 (Inns); Reid 16-5-42-2 (Inns); Matthews 17-4-42-2; Hogan 11-5-17-0; MacLeay 8-1-21-1; Moody 8-2-16-0; Andrews 6-2-16-0	
Umpires: R Evans and P McConnell	

*G A Gooch c Zoehrer b Alderman 12

Sun.



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Ivanisevic likely to gain from Becker

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

FATE seems to have decided that, one way or another, the names of Boris Becker and Goran Ivanisevic should be linked together for the year. The young Yugoslav, aged 19, who beat Becker in the first round of the French Open in May but lost to him in the semi-finals at Wimbledon, has two chances to cap his extraordinary rise by winning one of the eight places in the \$2 million ATP Tour world championships in Frankfurt next week.

The first depends on his performance in the \$330,000 Diet Pepsi Indoor Challenge at Wembley this week: the second on the speed of Becker's recovery from the thigh injury which limited his part in the final of the Paris Open against Stefan Edberg on Sunday to just six games. Ivanisevic, the No. 2 seed, has to reach the final at least at Wembley to be in with a chance of overtaking Emilio Sanchez, who plays in the Kremlin Cup in Moscow this week, and sneaking into the last place in the eight-man ATP finals. He does not have the easiest start against Thierry Champion, of France, who reached the quarter-finals of the French Open in May.

The sadder but possibly more realistic prospect is that Becker will be forced to pull out of the finals, letting Ivanisevic in through the back door. That would not only be cruel luck on the world champion, who would have reached No. 1 early next week if he had beaten Edberg in Paris, but on the ATP, who were overjoyed that the No. 1 position would be decided by their own finals, where ranking points are being awarded for the first time. The climax was the least the ATP de-

served at the end of a fraught year.

Becker was due to see his doctor in Munich yesterday about the strain in his left thigh. In the graphic words of Ion Tiriac, his manager, the world champion "just physically exploded" after a relentless six weeks which had brought victories in Sydney and Stockholm and a final place in Tokyo and Paris. "I've never had a thigh injury as bad before," Becker said. "It comes from playing many many matches and travelling a lot."

Ironically, Becker has been one of the most vociferous critics of the number of tournaments players have to commit themselves to on the ATP Tour, but the sight of Edberg, his old rival, at No. 1 and the fact that he likes playing indoors dictated a relentless schedule which has finally proved too much for his heavyweight frame. He had been troubled by the thigh throughout the week in Paris, though it had not really shown until his semi-final against Jonas Svensson, which he struggled to win in three sets.

Edberg, who began the year by pulling out of the final of the Australian Open because of injury, could seal his No. 1 position through injury to Becker.

At Wembley, Michael Chang begins his title defence against Mark Kratzmann, while Pat Cash meets Darren Cahill, his Davis Cup colleague. Since suffering from injuries to both hips at the start of the year, Chang has struggled to regain the form and confidence he showed at Wembley last year, when he beat Guy Forget in the final.

Probyn lifts curtain on riddles of life among front-row forwards

By PETER BILLS

THE world within the world of the front-row forwards of rugby union is a closed society. They dismiss notions that physical strength is the sole arbiter of quality. "A lot of people think prop forwards are just dumb animals," Jeff Probyn, of England, says. "But front-row play is almost like a little game of chess. Besides the physical factor there is a lot of psychological work going on."

The controversy surrounding the dismissal of Federico Mendez, Argentina's loose-head prop, and the involvement of Probyn himself again questions the mysteries of the front row: they baffle many observers of the game, including some of the best referees. Bravery and physique were once the only qualifications for participation: today, Probyn says, degrees in psychology and kildogy are equally valuable.

A THREE-MAN committee will determine this week whether further action is required by the Rugby Football Union (RFU) over the part played by Jeff Probyn, the England prop, in the events leading up to the dismissal last Saturday of Federico Mendez.

Mendez, the Pumas prop, was sent off near the end of the game between England and Argentina at Twickenham for punching Paul Ackford, the England lock. The disciplinary hearing, which suspended Mendez for four weeks, asked the RFU to make its own investigation into the possi-

bility of provocation. The evidence of television clearly implicated Probyn.

Three members, yet to be named, of the England committee will look at the video of the game as well as inviting Probyn to give his version of events.

"We have always taken the view that we must get the image of the game right," Dudley Wood, the RFU secretary, said yesterday. He said that, apart from the big television audience, the game attracted a crowd only 200 short of the 55,300 capacity. Last month the RFU cir-

cled a letter to constituent bodies and clubs reminding them of the need for appropriate action over indiscipline. Wood said: "We feel we have an absolute right to take action over incidents the referee does not see."

The RFU has a report from Colin Hawke, the New Zealand referee, and another by Ken McCartney, the Scottish touch judge who drew Hawke's attention to Mendez. Video evidence is also permissible.

Probyn defines his chief tasks as two-fold: keeping the scrum stable on his own side's feed and, when the opposition have the put-in, physically attacking (by legal methods) the opposing hooker to split the opposition's scrum.

"Some of the props I play against happily slip around the outside of me and look comfortable. But their hooker is taking all the pressure from me. The best opponent is the one who scrummages straight against you all the time, thereby preventing you getting at his hooker. It is all about technique. I use technique to

try and adjust the angles of the push which my lock gives me. I try to go for the binding between the opposition's prop and hooker for that is the best way to split a front row."

Wheeling the scrum to deny your opponents good ball is a favourite trick, achieved by the loose-head continuing to push. "If I do not push at the same time, the scrum must wheel automatically," Probyn says.

Another is for the tight-head to deliberately collapse a scrum virtually on impact. Most referees immediately go round to the opposite side of the scrum to try to pinpoint the culprit. Then, when the ball is inserted on the opposite side, the feed is usually crooked for it is impossible for a referee on the tight-head to see exactly where it was fed.

Probyn, with a perfectly straight face, says that much of what goes on is "open to interpretation". "Deciding where the pressure is being exerted and therefore who is to blame for scrum collapses is especially tricky. "What goes on is an intense physical and mental battle. But all front rows have a unique bond. Whenever you meet one of them, you have your own little conversation, then your own little game within the game."

Jeff Probyn, who runs an upholstery business and is the father of 14 and 12-year-old boys, is concerned at scrum injuries to youngsters. Front-row play is dangerous at schoolboy level, he thinks because boys are put into positions in the team solely according to their appearance.